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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

20th MARCH 1951

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OFFICIAL REPORT.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly

RD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 20th March, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m. of the clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REMOVAL OF S. JOGINDER SINGH MANN FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY.

*2987. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar**: Will the hon. Minister evenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sardar Jogindar Singh Mann was removed from the membership of the Provincial Transport Authority ;

(b) the reasons for the removal ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

(a) Yes.

(b) He had failed to submit his resignation from the Provincial Transport Authority on his acquiring a financial interest in the Karnal, Kaithal Co-operative Transport Society, Ltd., in accordance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Did the Government suggest to him that he should resign ?

Parliamentary Secretary : A letter was sent to the hon. Member to that effect and a few reminders were also sent but he did not reply any of those.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is the Parliamentary Secretary sure that the letter referred to by him reached Sardar Sahib ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There is a presumption in law that when a letter is posted it is presumed that it reaches the person concerned.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Was it an ordinary letter or it was sent under registered cover ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It was a registered letter.

GOVERNMENT OMNI BUS SERVICE IN JULLUNDUR.

*3019. **Master Gurbanta Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Omnibus Service to Ladowali Road, Khalsa College and Khalsa High School, Jullundur City has been stopped ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether it is a fact that none out of the present 3 or 4 routes of the service between Jullundur City and Jullundur Cantt. has been diverted via Ladowali Road ;

(c) whether the diversion referred to in part (b) above will mean additional cost to the Government ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Government has disallowed a private transport service to serve Ladowali Road, Khalsa College etc. ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

(a) Yes. Twice the service was run continuously for a few weeks as an experimental measure but since it proved an utter failure and was not found to be economical or profitable in view of extremely poor returns, it had to be

discontinued. It also proved that there was not sufficient traffic to warrant the regular operation of the Omnibus Service on this route.

(b) Yes. As stated above, the service had been diverted twice via this route but the diversion did not justify itself.

(c) Yes. The returns from this route were never more than annas four per mile whereas the actual cost of operation is between annas -/10/- to -/12/- per mile.

(d) No. It is incorrect.

NATIONALIZATION OF MOTOR TRANSPORT IN THE STATE.

*3026. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the bus routes so far nationalized by the Punjab State Government ;

(b) the income earned from and the expenditure incurred on these routes by the State Government during the year 1950-51 separately ;

(c) whether the Government propose to nationalise more routes; if so, the names of such routes; if not, the reasons therefor?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

(a) Jullundur—Kartarpur.

Jullundur—Kapurthala.

Jullundur—Nakodar.

Jullundur—Amritsar.

Amritsar—Raja Sansi.

Amritsar—Attari border.

Amritsar—Chabbal.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

Amritsar—Tarn Taran

Amritsar—Majitha

Amritsar—Sursingh-Bhikhiwind

Amritsar—Tarn Taran-Sarhali

Amritsar—Tarn Taran-Chola Sahib

Amritsar—Tarn Taran-Nawanshara Panuan-Dera Baba

Amritsar—Kapurthala

Amritsar—Chagaon

Amritsar—Guruka-bagh

Ambala—Karnal

Ambala—Jagadhri

Ambala—Pehowa

Ambala—Simla

Ambala—Patiala

In addition, Government Transport Services are operating on local and suburban routes of Jullundur, Amritsar and Ambala.

(b) Up to January, 1951 expenditure and revenue amounts to Rs. 31,40,874/- and 36,30,463/- respectively.

(c) Further nationalization has been postponed for three years in view of the resolution passed by the Assembly in the Budget Session held in 1950.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : What is the reason for postponement ?

Parliamentary Secretary : A resolution to that effect had been passed by this House.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that according to the Resolution passed by this House the Government was asked to postpone the nationalisation of transport in general while it had been permitted to nationalise some routes as a measure of experiment ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It was done in consultation with the operators. According to the Resolution passed by the Assembly also,

the Government could nationalise only a few routes as an experimental measure.

Shri Ram Sharma : Since the passage of that resolution, the Government has nationalised some routes as an experimental measure. How can the Government say that it has decided to nationalise no more route in view of that resolution ?

Parliamentary Secretary : This is being done with the consent of operators.

Sbri Ram Sharma : When the Resolution permitted the nationalization of some routes and the Government has actually done so, how can the same resolution be quoted as a bar to further nationalization ?

Shri Virendra : Did the Government meet with success in the case of routes which have already been nationalised ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, the Government met with success in all those routes

Shri Virendra : If the nationalization was a success in all the cases and the Government earned profits, why are more routes not being nationalised ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The resolution passed by the Assembly has also to be kept in view.

Shri Virendra : The resolution authorised the Government to nationalise some routes as an experimental measure. If it could be done in the case of some routes, why are the remaining routes not being nationalised ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Experiments are not performed on all the routes.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Are Government buses only plying on the Amritsar roads referred to in the reply, or the private buses are also permitted to ply on those ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Does the nationalisation of a route mean that only Government buses can ply on that route or even private buses can ply on those roads ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Does the Parliamentary Secretary understand the meaning of the term 'nationalisation ?

Mr. Speaker : No reflection please.

Shri Ram Sharma : When the Gove nment made a profit of about five lakhs of rupees from a single route and the resolution passed by the Assembly authorises it to nationalise more routes as an experimental measure, why does the Government not nationalise some other routes ?

Parliamentary Secretary: It has been postponed for three years.

Shri Ram Sharma : When the nationalisation of some routes has proved so profitable and the resolution passed by this House authorises the Government to perform the same experiment in the case of more routes, why does the Government not nationalise some more routes ?

Chief Minister : When the Government takes over some route, it has to accommoda e the operators working on that route on some alternate route and a great deal has to be paid in the form of compensation. As there were no more routes on which the operators working on the private routes could be accommodated, the Government could not nationalise all the routes.

Pandit Faqir Chand : If the Government has decided not to nationalise any more routes, what is the necessity of having a separate Transport Authority ?

Chief Minister : It has to manage our buses plying on the routes which have been nationalised.

APPEALS AGAINST ALLOTMENT OF LANDS

*2769. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of appeals filed by the land owners against the allotment of lands under the quasi-permanent scheme in the state ;

(b) the number of such cases decided by the Government up to 31st December 1950 ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) In all 107295 applications, 87991 in the districts and 19304 at headquarters, have been received for review.

(b) 8126 applications were decided upto the end of Dec. 1950.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : How long will it take the Government to dispose of the remaining applications which run into thousands ?

Minister : All these are expected to be disposed of by the 31st of March, 1951.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS

*2965. **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the total area of land allotted to the refugees in the State ;

(b) the total number of allottees to whom this land has been allotted ;

(c) the total area of land which has not yet been taken possession of by the allottees ;

(d) the total number of allottees who have not yet taken possession of their lands ;

(e) the action, if any, taken by the Government to persuade these allottees to take possession of their lands ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.

(a) An area of 20,17,850 standard acres of evacuee land has been allotted to displaced land-holders in Punjab.

(b) 466833 persons (including mortgagees) have been allotted land in Punjab.

(c. Up to 31st January 1951, possession of 162021 standa acres of the allotted land had not been taken by the allottees.

(d) Up to 31st January 1951, 173520 allottees (including mortgagees) did not take possession of the land allotted to them.

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(e) 31st January 1951, was fixed as the last date for taking possession of allotted land in Punjab and the allottees were warned to collect their allotment orders and take possession before that date failing which their allotments would be cancelled. This date has been extended upto 31st March 1951, and the allottees have been given more time to do so. They will, however, now have to apply for the collection of allotment orders and delivery of possession at Jullundur Secretariat.

RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMAGED HOUSES AT JULLUNDUR.

*3038. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Custodian, Jullundur, made an announcement by the beat of drum that damaged houses could be reconstructed or repaired by utilising rubble wherever available;

(b) whether it is a fact that the roofs of one hall and eight other rooms of Baradari, Basti Danishmandan, which were in tact last year, had fallen, if so, whether the Government has any information regarding the disposal of the rubble;

(c) whether it is a fact that the disappearance of the rubble was reported to the police post No. 5 Basti Sheikh, Jullundur; if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) No such announcement was made.

(b) No record is available in this behalf. It is, however, reported that one of the rooms of this Baradari was damaged during the heavy rains last year and some of the

malba disappeared. Subsequently one beam was placed on Superdari with one Gurmukh Singh a resident of that locality. As a conseqence of further rains this building was damaged and enquiries reveal that one Harbans Lal of Globe Factory situated, in that Basti, removed some bricks, beams and balas therefrom and utilized the material for repairing and reconstructing his factory.

(c) Enquiries show that the Rent Sub Inspector concerned had verbally reported the disappearance of the rubble to the Incharge Police Post No. 5 Basti Sheikh. There is, however, no record to show that the matter did at all come to the notice of the District Rent Officer and so no report was lodged to the Police. Further enquirics are now being instituted and adequate action will be taken in the matter.

MISAPPROPRIATION OF GOVERNMENT MONEY AT JULLUNDUR.

*3040. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the amount which was sanctioned in connection with the repairs of evacuee houses in Jullundur ;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made regarding the persons to whom grants were given for repairing the houses in their possession, if so, the estimated amount spent on the repairs ;

(c) whether any discrepancy was detected in the amount granted and the amount actually utilized on repairs ; if so, the action taken in the matter ?

The hon Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) A sum of Rs. 5,29,146/4/- was sanctioned in connection with the repairs of evacuee houses.

(b) Only 375 tenants submitted their vouchers for verification after executing necessary repairs, out of which 91 cases

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involving an expenditure of Rs. 2670/11/- have been verified.

(c) No discrepancy has been detected in the amount granted and the amount actually utilized on repairs.

REGISTRATION OF EVACUEE HOUSES IN BASTI DANISHMANDAN JULLUNDUR

*3042. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state the number of evacuee houses registered in Basti Danishmandan, Jullundur, together with the number of those which stand today ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : The total number of evacuee houses registered in Basti Danishmandan is 545 and the number of houses standing today is 400.

DECONTROL OF FOODGRAINS IN THE STATE.

*3043. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the Government intend to decontrol foodgrains other than wheat ; if so, when ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(i) No.

(ii) The question does not arise.

RESOLUTION OF SONEPAT BAR ASSOCIATION.

*2619. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the Bar Association, Sonepat, has recently passed a resolution which was endorsed and forwarded to Government by the Bar Association, Rohtak, making very serious allegations against a Magistrate, First Class (Section 30) Rohtak ;

(d) whether a deputation of the Bar Association Sonepat has also waited upon him in this connection ; if so, to what effect ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Necessary inquiries are being made and Government will take such action as is considered suitable.

Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon Chief Minister be pleased to state as to which officer was deputed to make the enquiry and when ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this question. I can, however, say this much that the enquiry was ordered as soon the representation was received. Besides a deputation also waited upon me in this connection and the members of the deputation were asked to send specific charges against the magistrate.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if this representation was against the magistrate who was previously punished after another enquiry ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say that. The hon. Member knows better.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the nature of the complaints made against the magistrate ?

Chief Minister : I think the hon. Member knows that because a copy of the representation of the Bar Association was also sent to him.

Shri Ram Sharma : I want to know if the Government has any idea about the complaints made against the magistrate by the deputation which met the Government ?

Chief Minister : I don't remember the specific complaints. I know this much that an enquiry was ordered.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that the complaints against the magistrate are that he forces the people to proceed according to his will, the reader records the evidence on one side and the magistrate on another, the cases are adjourned to harass the people, and the police officers are seated on the dais ?

Chief Minister : Sir, I thank the hon Member for the information.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the hon Chief Minister, after thanking me for the information, will see that the enquiry is conducted expeditiously into such serious charges ?

Chief Minister : The enquiry is expeditiously conducted even if the charges are not serious.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : May I know if it is a fact that the person appointed to conduct the enquiry did not give any opportunity to the Bar Association to give its view to him ?

Chief Minister : We have not received the report so far.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Is it not a fact that the Sessions Judge has already completed the enquiry ?

Chief Minister : It is not to my knowledge.

APPOINTMENT OF STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES IN DISTRICT HISSAR.

*2727. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the names of the stipendary Magistrates posted in Hissar District who were appointed between 15th August, 1947, and 15th August, 1950;

(b) the pay per month of each of them;

(c) the educational and vocational qualifications of each of them;

(d) (i) whether any one of them is a displaced person;

(ii) whether any of the persons referred to in part (d) (i) above have been allotted land in the district of Hissar ; if so, where;

(e) (i) whether any one of the persons referred to in part (a) above has been nominated a member of the District Board Hissar and Small Town Committee, Tohana;

(ii) whether any one of them is the President of the Small Town Committee, Tohana;

(f) (i) if the answers to parts (d) to (e) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for posting them in their own district;

(ii) whether under the rules no Magistrate can be posted in his own district; if so, the reasons for ignoring this rule in the case of the persons referred to in part (a) above;

(g) (i) whether any one of the persons referred to in part (a) above was appointed as Commandant of refugee camp, Hissar, if so, his name;

(ii) the monthly salary he was getting as Camp Commandant;

(h) (i) whether any complaints were made against him when he was Camp Commandant; if so, the nature of the complaints so made;

(ii) whether any enquiry was made into those complaints; if so, with what result ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Ch. Hukam Singh.

(b) Rs. 450/— p. m.

(c) Matriculation and 10 years experience as an Hony. Magistrate (including Magistrate 1st class) in joint Punjab.

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(d) (i) Ch. Hukam Singh is a displaced person.

(d) (ii) Yes. in Tohana Sub-Tehsil.

(e) (i) Yes.

(e) (ii) Yes.

(f) (i) He was employed temporarily for a period of six months and was posted to Hissar at his own request owing to his family circumstances. He does not actually belong to Hissar but has only settled there after partition.

(f) (ii) It is the practice not to post a Magistrate in his own district. Ch. Hukam Singh was posted to Hissar for the reasons given in (f) (i) above.

(g) (i) Yes. Ch. Hukam Singh.

(g) (ii) Rs. 500/— p. m. from the 28th July, 1948 to the 14th August, 1949 and Rs. 400/- p. m. from the 15th August. 1949 to the 30th November, 1949.

(h) (i) Yes. The complaint was regarding the use of Government jeep for sport.

(h) (ii) Yes, but the allegations were found to be incorrect.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the person who is allotted land in a particular district becomes the resident of that district.

Chief Minister : Yes, he becomes the resident of that place.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if that magistrate is still posted at Hissar or he has been transferred ?

Chief Minister : He has been transferred.

———

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE OF HONOURABLE MINISTERS.

*2728 **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government proposes to take any action on the following observations of the Public Accounts Com-

mittee of the Punjab Legislative Assembly on the Appropriation Accounts of the Punjab Government for the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 published in its report on page 7 "also in our opinion the Conveyance Allowance of Rs. 250/- per mensem which is paid to all hon. Ministers, in addition to travelling allowance under the rules governing them, is an unnecessary concession and may be withdrawn. We understand that in several other States in India the dual concession of conveyance allowance in addition to travelling allowance at adequate rates, does not exist";

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the steps, if any, Government proposes to take to effect economy in the travelling allowance of the hon. Ministers and their staff and Grade I officers of the Government ;

(c) whether the travelling allowance rules have been revised to reduce the present rates ; if so, to what extent ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:—

(a) The rate of Conveyance Allowance allowed to the Hon. Ministers during the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 was Rs. 300/- p.m. and not Rs. 250/- as mentioned in the Report of Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts of the Punjab Government for that period. The dual concession of Conveyance Allowance in addition to the Travelling Allowance does exist in several States (viz: C P. and Berar, Bombay, Orissa, Assam and West Bengal). On reviewing the whole position, however, the rate was reduced from Rs. 300/- p.m. to Rs. 250/- p.m. with effect from 1st July 1948.

(b) and (c) The Conveyance Allowance for Hon. Ministers has already been reduced from Rs. 300/- p.m. to Rs. 250/- p. m. As regards 1st grade officers, Government have revised the rules re-classifying the officers on the basis of their pay in accordance with the practice followed at the Centre. In the case of Personal Assistants to Hon. Ministers, they are now entitled to travel second instead of first class.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the Ministers about whom the Public Accounts Committees have recommended that they should not charge conveyance allowance along with the travelling allowance, are still drawing both the allowances?

Chief Minister: So far as the conveyance allowance is concerned, the House must have passed it. The Ministers can only then draw it.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the Ministers of those States are drawing the conveyance allowance in spite of the fact that the Accounts Committees reported against it and the Houses of those States adopted that report?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Chief Minister is not expected to know that.

Shri Ram Sharma: Is it a fact that, after the report of the Public Accounts Committee was adopted by the House, the rate of the travelling allowance was raised from annas 10 to annas 12 a mile while the recommendation of the Committee was to reduce it to annas 8 a mile.

Chief Minister: Yes, it is a fact.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know what useful purpose is served by passing a measure by the House if it is not to be acted upon by the Government?

Chief Minister: The report of the Public Accounts Committee is only a recommendation to the Government. It is not a resolution of the House.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the report adopted by the House becomes its own report?

Chief Minister: The report is adopted by the House. In this report a recommendation was made to the Government and it is being considered.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the report adopted by the House becomes its own report in a way?

Mr. Speaker: It is a question of opinion.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know the reasons due to which the rate of travelling allowance was raised to 12 annas a mile from 10 annas a mile?

Chief Minister: The rate of 10 annas a mile was not adequate because the Ministers had to spend from their own pockets.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if, at the time of enhancing the rate of travelling allowance, the prices of petrol, mobil oil etc., had become higher ?

Chief Minister : I have not with me the rates of these things.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the rate of travelling allowance in the case of other first grade officers has also been increased ?

Chief Minister : The rate of travelling allowance has been increased only in the case of Ministers.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know what is the difference in costs in the case of the cars of the hon. Ministers and in the case of the cars of the first grade officers ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say that. It depends on the make of the car.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Has the Government issued any instructions to the effect that the First Grade officers should have the same kind of cars as the hon. Ministers have ?

Chief Minister : There is no such thing.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the Government prepared to make enquiries and see what kind of cars such officers have ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a request for action.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the Ministers have some special cars and the First Grade officers do not have cars which consume as much petrol as theirs?

Chief Minister : That is not so,

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS.

*2731. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the action, if any, taken by the Government on the

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recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee, appointed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly, on the Appropriation Accounts of the Punjab Government for the year 1947-48 which were published on page 7 of its reports that every hon. Minister should state in his travelling allowance bill the purpose of journey undertaken by him in respect of which the travelling allowance is claimed ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know how long will it take to implement the recommendations of the Committee ?

Chief Minister : They are under consideration.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it a fact that it was the office of the Accountant General which pointed out that the purpose of journey should be written ?

Chief Minister : I require notice.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it such an unimportant problem that the Government is delaying it ?

Chief Minister : It is either very important or important.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I take it that the hon. Chief Minister considers it to be an important problem ?

Chief Minister : It is a matter of opinion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I just wanted to know if this is the reason for not giving prac ical shape to this recommendation ?

Mr. Speaker : It is an insinuation.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know when it was decided to discontinue writing the purpose of the journey ?

Chief Minister : It is still being written.

Shri Ram Sharma : Has it also been included in the pupose that ten annas are not sufficient ?

Chief Minister : That is not so.

TRANSFER OF RECORDS OF CIVIL, REVENUE AND CRIMINAL CASES OF DISPLACED PERSONS FROM WEST-PAKISTAN.

*2732. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the steps, if any, so far taken by the Government to bring the records (files of civil, revenue and criminal cases of displaced persons from West-Pakistan ;

(b) the results of the steps so taken ;

(c) the steps, if any, so far taken by the Government to bring the land records and the files of civil, revenue and criminal cases of villages which now comprise Patti tehsil but which were a part of Kasur tehsil before partition and with what results ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) (b) and (c) An agreement in regard to moveable property was concluded on the 27th June, 1950 between the representatives of India and Pakistan. Under this agreement it was agreed *inter alia* to take legal powers to enable transfer of records to the Government of the other country and also to enable either Government to receive similarly records from the other country for entrusting them to the appropriate courts for further disposal in accordance with the normal law.

While steps are being taken by both the countries to enact the necessary legislation, action is also being taken in the meantime for consolidation of records transferable under the agreement.

TRANSFER OF DEPOSITS IN COURTS FROM WEST PUNJAB.

*2734. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the steps, if any, so far taken by the Government to bring deposits made in different courts of the Lahore district by

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persons from villages which were a part of Kasur tehsil before partition and which now form part of Patti tehsil ;

(b) the results of the steps so taken ;

(c) whether the court deposits, referred to in my starred, Assembly question No. 1531, put on 29th March, 1950, has been received from Pakistan and delivered to the persons concerned ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

(a) and (b) An Indo-Pakistan Movable property Agreement was concluded between the representatives of India and Pakistan on the 27th June, 1950. It was agreed, *inter alia*, that in the case of districts from where wholesale migration had taken place the court deposits will be transferred ' en bloc ', provided both the parties to the claim were non-Muslims in the case of Pakistan and Muslims in the case of India. In other cases action should be taken through the Claims Organisation, on the claim being filed by the applicant for the transfer of his deposits. It was also agreed that necessary legislation would be undertaken by the two Governments to give effect to this agreement. Suitable steps to take legal powers to enable transfer of records and deposits lying with courts in both the countries are being taken by the Governments of India and Pakistan In the meantime lists of deposits transferable to the other country are being compiled in both the countries.

(c) Ornaments and other movable property mentioned in this part of the question are also covered by the term ' court deposits ' and the explanation in paras (a) and (b) above will also apply to this type of property.

SOCIALIST PRISONERS IN THE STATE.

*2855. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of socialist prisoners in all the jails of the State on 31st December 1950 ;

(b) the number of those who were placed in A and B classes separately ;

(c) whether any one of them is getting a family allowance ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava .

(a) 28.

(b) ' A ' class—Nil.

' B ' class—5.

(c) No.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the reason for distinction between treatment meted out to socialist and communist detenus ?

Chief Minister : That is due to difference in the rules applicable to both of them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does it mean that the socialists are more anti-Government or violent ?

Chief Minister : It is a question of opinion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that an announcement was made by the Government that the Political prisoners will not be given C class ?

Chief Minister : We are taking steps according to the rules.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Can the public see those rules ?

Chief Minister : They are confidential ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Can the M. L. A.s have access to them ?

Chief Minister : I can show the rules to them.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether A, B or C classes are given according to social position or according to political activity ?

Chief Minister : According to social position.

Shri Ram Sharma : If it is so, why is it that the socialists are not given the same treatment as is meted out to the communists? Is their social position always inferior ?

Chief Minister: The question of Socialists and communists is quite a different question. In this case we are bound by the rules.

COMMUNIST DETENUS.

*2853. **Shri Prabodh Chandra**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of Communist detenus in the State on 31st December 1950;

(b) how many of these are getting family allowances;

(c) how many have applied for family allowances?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) 81

(b) 21.

(c) 47 out of 81 mentioned in (a) above applied for family allowances.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know the date on which the 47 detenues applied for family allowances?

Chief Minister: I dont remember it. It requires notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that they applied about eighteen months back, is there any truth in this?

Chief Minister: I can't say that.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: How long will it take to decide their cases?

Chief Minister: Whenever any application is received it is considered.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether there is any limit of time for deciding those cases which are under consideration?

Chief Minister: I have never stated that the remaining 26 applications are under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the grounds on which these twenty six applications were rejected ?

Chief Minister : I cannot give a general reply. If any specific application is mentioned, I can give the grounds for its rejection.

DETENUS.

*2857. **Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the hon. Chief Ministr be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of cases of detenus received by the Government for revision;

(b) in how many cases the recommendations of the Committee formed for the purpose were accepted by the Government?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) 495.

(b) Government considered the recommendations of the Advisory Board and accepted most of them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the hon. Chief Minister is prepared to define the words 'most of them' ? Is it not a fact that out of the recommendations made by the Advisory Board for the release of the detenus, only 40 per cent were accepted by the Government ? If so, how does the hon. Chief Minister reconcile this with his statement that Government accepted most of the recommendations.

Chief Minister : 'Most of them' means 'most of them'. It can safely be concluded that majority of the recommendations were accepted.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether rejection of 60 per cent recommendations connotes acceptance of majority of recommendations ?

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : My submission is that the reply given by the hon. Chief Minister is not correct.

Mr. Speaker: Put a definite question instead of arguing.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I enquire from the hon. Chief Minister whether Government released 40 detenus out of 100 recommended by the Advisory Board?

Chief Minister: I cannot give the exact figure off hand. But I think out of 495 cases sent to the Government by the Advisory Board, majority of them were set free.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether the recommendations sent by the Advisory Board are purely advisory in nature or are mandatory on the Government?

Chief Minister: It is an advisory body and its recommendations are also purely advisory but under the new rules, they have become almost mandatory.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us the exact or approximate number of cases in which Government did not accept the recommendations of the Advisory Board?

Chief Minister: If the hon. Member gives notice, I will procure the exact information. As regards approximate information on the point, that I have already given.

SUB-JAIL, AMRITSAR.

*3027. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the authorised accommodation in the Amritsar sub-Jail;

(b) the total number of convicts and undertrial prisoners accommodated in the said Sub-Jail;

(c) the number of latrines and urinals in the above mentioned Jail;

(d) whether the Government contemplate to convert this jail into a district Jail; if so, when;

(e) whether the Government has purchased land for expanding the jail?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) for 264 prisoners.

(b) 615.65 (average population of the last year).

(c) Latrines — 63

Urinals — 8

(d) Yes. A scheme for the extension of this Jail to provide additional accommodation for 500 prisoners has been taken in hand. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 25,69,000. It is proposed to spread the work over 3 years. Work will begin after Assembly has approved of expenditure.

(e) Arrangements for acquiring land are being made.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the authorised accommodation available in the Amritsar Sub-Jail is for 264 prisoners but actually 600 prisoners were accommodated. May I know how did the Government arrange for the provision of accommodation to the additional popu ation of the Jail ?

Chief Minister : Tents were provided for accommodating the additional population of the jail ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware o any ground or place in the Amritsar Sub-Jail here tents could be pitched for accommodating the prisoners ?

Chief Minister : I think there must be some place where tents could be pi ched I have an impression that I have already given a reply to a question of this kind.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Does the hon. Chief Minister remember that he admitted in a reply to one of my questions that no tents could be pitched in this Sub Jail ?

Mr. Speaker : This question was discussed yesterday.

Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, if a prisoner violates the rules of jails, he is punished for that. Now my question is that if the Government which is responsibe for providing accommodation to the prisoners in the jails, fails to do so, then what punishment can be inflicted on it ?

MENTAL HOSPITAL, AMRITSAR.

*3028. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the authorised accommodation in the Mental Hospital Amritsar ;

(b) the total number of in-door patients in the said hospital ;

(c) the total number of out-door patients treated in this hospital in 1950-51 ;

(d) the total annual expenditure incurred on this hospital for its establishment ;

(e) the annual diet expenditure on the patients of this hospital ;

(f) whether the patients in this hospital pay any thing for their diet ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) For 450 patients.

(b) 383 patients.

(c) 268 patients during the year 1950. The financial year 1950-51 being still current, information for the year cannot be supplied.

(d) Rs. 1,10,539 during 1950-51, upto February, 1951.

(e) Rs. 75,800 during 1950-51, upto February, 1951.

(f) Yes. Charges of—

(a) Ordinary class patients — Rs. 35 p. m.

(b) Better class patients — Rs. 4/8/- per diem include expenses on diet.

FIXED T. As. TO P.W.D. OFFICERS.

*3029. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that a fixed amount of Travelling Allowance is paid to all the officers in the Public Works

Department (B. and R. and Irrigation Branches), if so, the amount per month so paid to Overseers, Sub Divisional Officers, Executive Engineers and Superintending Engineers ;

(b) whether this amount of travelling allowance is admissible even if an officer does not undertake any touring in a month, if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

RIOT AND MURDER CASES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CENSUS OPERATION IN THE STATE.

*3031. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that riots and murders took place at certain places in the State while the enumeration for the census was being done ;

(b) the number of places so affected ;

(c) the number of riots and murders separately that took place in the State district wise as a result of disputes connected with the enumeration ;

(d) the causes of such riots ;

(e) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative the action, if any, taken by the Government so far in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes

(b) Three

(c) (i) one riot in Jagadhari, district Ambala-one murder.

[Chief Minister]

(ii) one riot in Ludhiana City-no murder.

(iii) one in village Lidhran, district Jullundur-one murder.

(d) Disputes over mother tongue returns.

(e) Action against the offenders was taken under the law of the State and steps taken to ensure peace.

INSTRUCTORS TAKEN IN HOME DEFENCE DEPARTMENT IN THE STATE.

*3054. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of instructors taken in Home Defence Department in the State in the month of March and April, 1950 and the number of scheduled castes among them;

(b) the number of scheduled caste candidates selected who were declared fit for imparting this training after completing their course at No. 1, Air Force Academy, Ambala Cantt;

(c) whether there was any written test to determine the ability of the instructors who have been delcared fit for imparting such training;

(d) the minimum qualification prescribed for appointment as instructors;

(e) the numbers separately of those instructors who were graduates, F.As., and Matriculates, together with the number among them of those belonging to the scheduled castes at the time of selection;

(f) the number of persons selected as instructors after the time mentioned in part (a) above and the number of the scheduled castes among them together with the number of those who were called for service and the number of the members of the scheduled castes amongst them;

(g) whether the instructors who received training at No. 1 Air Force Academy, Ambala Cantt. in April-May, 1950 have been given certificates for having qualified for such purposes; if not, why not?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The total number of Instructors recruited in March-April, 1950 was 58, out of which 4 belonged to scheduled castes.

(b) Two.

(c) No. The test was oral and was held by a Board consisting of three Military Officers and the Officer on Special Duty, Home Defence, Punjab.

(d) No minimum qualifications have been laid down.

(e) (i)	M.As.	—	two
(ii)	B.A.,B.Ts.	—	four
(iii)	B.Scs	—	five
(iv)	B.As.	—	twenty two
(v)	Senior Cambridge		two
(vi)	F.As.	—	eleven
(vii)	Matrics	—	eleven
(viii)	Army qualified		one

Scheduled Castes out of the above — Four (all graduates)

(f) In the selection held in September, 1950, 11 Instructors were selected, out of which seven were Harijans. All the eleven candidates were called for service, but three of them failed to join

(g) No.

THEFT OF BUILDING MATERIAL AT CHANDIGARH

*2789. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the

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building material worth thousands has been stolen from the Chandigarh site; if so, what action, if any, the Government has taken against the officers responsible therefor?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) No case of theft of building material has occurred at Chandigarh.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly recollect that in 1948, in reply to a question he stated that certain building material at the Chandigarh site had been stolen? If that is a fact, how does he reconcile this with his present statement that no such theft has taken place there?

Chief Minister: I may tell my hon. Friend that so far no building material has arrived at Chandigarh. So how could the question of theft arise?

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it or is it not a fact that a lot of building material was stolen in 1948 from the Chandigarh site?

Chief Minister: I have already stated that no material of any kind was stolen.

LEVY OF WATER TAX BY THE DISTRICT BOARD HOSHIARPUR

*2858. **Shri Prabodh Chandra**: Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

(a) the water tax per head levied by the District Board, Hoshiarpur on the residents of ilaqa Beit in the District;

(b) the progress, if any, made in the realization of this tax?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi):

(a) No tax is levied. However a fee is levied @ Rs. 3/- per annum per head with effect from 6th December 1949 under section 33 (ii) (c) of the District Board Act.

(b) A sum of Rs 26,420/- has been realized up to 23rd February 1951.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Will the Parliamentary Secretary kindly tell us whether this water tax at the rate of Rs. 3/- per head is levied on the adults alone or on children of two or four days' age as well ?

Parliamentary Secretary: This is a tax which has been levied on adults. As a matter of fact, it comes to Rs. 8 or 10 per family per annum which, when calculated per head, does not exceed one rupee per month.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether any representations from the public of that ilaqa were received by the Government to the effect that the water tax @ Rs. 3/- p.a. per head was excessive and that even children aged a few days were also subject to the levy of this tax ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Representations did reach the Government and they are under consideration. As a matter of fact the capital cost for the supply of water is borne by the Government but the running expenditure is recovered by the District Board from those who use the water. Before the arrangements made for the supply of water, people had to spend a lot for procuring water. But now expenditure per family is not much and so I do not think that any hardship will be caused to the public by the imposition o water tax.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The Parliamentary Secretary has stated that a few representations did come to the notice of the Government. May I know when were they received by the Government and when does Government propose to take a decision on them ?

Parliamentary Secretary: I require notice for this. But I can say that decision will be taken very soon.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I known whether there is any time limit fixed for the expression 'very soon'. We have been hearing these expressions for the last three years in reply to our questions from the Government but so far no action has been taken in connection with them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: I would request him to specify what he means by ' Jaldi se jaldi ' ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member hastried so many times and he has not been able to get anything definite.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I shall try again.

Mr Speaker : Order, order.

Dr. Bikram Chand : It has been stated by the Parliamentary Secretary that a sum of Rs. 26,420/- has been realized up to 23rd February 1951 ; may I know how much will be the total amount if this tax is realised in full ?

Master Gurbanta Singh : Will the Government afford financial help to the people of those villages where the water becomes scarce for months together ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There is no such scarcity of water in those villages at present. Moreover, water supply has already been made available to people in those villages through tube-wells. Government has not received any complaints so far.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Is it a fact that in the beit ilaqa if a person dies, water tax is realized from his relations before the disposal of the dead body ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No such tax is levied.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has the Government received any representation to the effect that the water fee at the rate of Re 1/- per head is a great burden on those poor in the beit ilaqa who cannot afford it ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The question of rich or poor does not arise so far as the consumption of water is concerned. It has been experienced that the people have to spend less on water then they used to spend before.

Shrimati Sita Devi : In view of the fact that the people of the beit ilaqa are very poor and cannot afford to pay even a sum of Re 1/- as water fee, may I know if the Government is prepared to exempt them from this fee. Is the Government prepared to consider their case ?

Mr. Speaker : It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Ram Sharma : In how many ilaqas has our Government or the District Boards provided the facilities of water-supply to the

people ? What facilities are being afforded to the people of the bait ilaqa from whom this tax is realized by the Governme t ? In how many ilaqas are the proceeds of this tax going to be utilized ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Previously the people in the bait ilaqa used to get water from distant places. They had to cover about ten to twelve miles for getting water. The women-folk of these ilaqas had to waste much of their time and now their time and labour has been saved to a great extent. It is clear from this that now they have to spend comparatively less than before.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : In view of the reply of the Parliamentary Secretary that the people have to spend comparatively less then before, may I know what was the percentage formerly and what it is now ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not a difficult job to make an estimate of the percentage. As I have already stated, the people especially the woman-folk had to cover long distances only to fetch water and now they have not to waste their time and energy, and they have to pay only Re 1/- per family.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I want to know whether the Government has collected any figures to show that the people have to spend comparatively less then before ?

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know as to what facilities have been provided by the Government or the District Board to save the people of these ilaqas from walking long distances to fetch water ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Adequate arrangements have already been made by the Government in this connection.

Shri Ram Sharma : What sort of arrangement has the Government made so far as this matter is concerned. What arrangements existed before and what arrangements have been made now ?

Chief Minister : I would request the hon. Member to visit the place because it is really worth seeing.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is this the reply that is expected of the Government.

Mr. Speaker : If the Government gives you T. A. why should there be any objection.

Chief Minister : I would again request the hon. Member to visit the place and see for himself what arrangements have been made by the Government.

Shri Ram Sharma : Then is the Government going to make any arrangement ? Is the Government prepared to pay any T. A. to those of the hon. Members who would like to visit the place ?

Chief Minister : Government will consider if any such request is made to it.

Dr. Bikram Chand : How much money is spent yearly by the District Board Hoshiarpur on this scheme ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The District Board does not spend from its own funds However, it has taken the responsibility to implement this scheme on no profit no loss basis.

Dr. Bikram Chand : On whom is this money going to be spent ?

Parliamentary Secretary : This information can be had from the District Board.

SHIFTING OF GOVERNMENT ENGINEERING SCHOOL, GURDASPUR.

*2859. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Minister for Public works be pleased to state the reasons why the Government Engineering School has been shifted from Gurdaspur ?

The hon Captain Ranjit Singh :

The Government School of Engineering was shifted from Gurdaspur to Kalsia for the following reasons:-

(i) The Military buildings at Gurdaspur were required by the Military for their own use.

(ii) The buildings under the use of the Engineering School had been badly damaged during the heavy rains of 1950 and their restoration would have been very expensive.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the people of this district submitted representations to the hon. Chief Minister to the effect that

some more educational institutions should be opened in their district. Is it the result of this representation that the Government Engineering School has been shifted from Gurdaspur ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Government did receive representations from the people as referred to by the hon. Member. If the people of this district had made some suitable accommodation available for this school, Government would have definitely considered their request.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it the policy of the Government to open these educational institutions in those places only where the people offer suitable accommodation for these institutions ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government thought it proper to shift the Government Engineering School from Gurdaspur.

EMBEZZLEMENT IN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, AMRITSAR.

*3030. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the case relating to the alleged embezzlement of the municipal fund at Amritsar was sent to the Anti-corruption committee of the State on the repeated requests made by a Municipal Commissioner of Amritsar;

(b) whether the enquiry was made by the C. I D. into this case; if so, with what result ;

(c) the number of arr sts made so far in this connection.

(d) the numb r of employees suspended so far in this connection?

The hon. Capt in Ranjit Singh.

(a) The case has not been sent to this Anti-corruption Committee, so far.

(b) The enquiry was first conducted by the C. I D. and latter by the District Police. Action to prosecute some

[Dr. Sant Ram Seth]

employees and to take departmental action against others is being taken. It would not be in public interest to disclose the details.

(c) Three

d) Two.

ABOLITION OF THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN AGRICULTURIST CLASSES IN THE STATE.

*2608. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government has considered the abolition of the distinction between the general and special group of agriculturists in the State; if so, to what result, if not, why not ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

The question of removing distinction between the agricultural tribes in the State is already under consideration of Government, but, it being a policy matter, will take sometime before a decision is arrived at.

It is further added that the whole question of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act is under the active consideration of Government and some time will be taken to arrive at a definite decision in this respect.

Shri Ram Sharma : Does any distinction still exist in A and B groups; if so, which tribes are included in group B ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice to answer this question.

REPEAL OF THE PUNJAB LAND ALIENATION ACT.

*3044. **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government has under consideration a proposal to repeal the Punjab Alienation of Land Act ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether Government of India has written anything to the Punjab Government in this connection ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not in the public interest to disclose this.

Shri Virendra : May I know at what stage this matter stands now?

Chief Minister : The Committee has been formed which will suggest what sections should be introduced to replace the Land Alienation Act. Their report is awaited.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it a fact that our Government received a letter from President Dr. Rajendra Prashad to the effect that the Land Alienation Act is repugnant to the Fundamental Rights as embodied in the Indian Constitution ?

Chief Minister : When the Constitution was framed the President had allowed two years' time to repeal the Land Alienation Act. This Act has been considered to be *ultra-vires* and the case is *sub-Judice.* The Government has set up a Committee which is going into the matter.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Can two replies be given to the same question. The Parliamentry Secretary replied that it is not in the public interest to disclose the information but now the Chief Minister has come forward with a reply.

Mr. Speaker : Any number of replies can be given.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Can two contradictory replies be given to the same question ?

Mr. Speaker : So far as the Chair is concerned it cannot check the hon. Minister in giving any replies they want. The remedy, if any, is in the hands of the hon. Members.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the names of the members of this Committee ?

Chief Minister : There are so many members that I will not be able to tell the names off-hand. If the hon Member wants to know their names, he may kindly give fresh notice of the question.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether the Government has consulted the Attorney General that this Act is *ultra-vires* ?

Chief Minister : The case is *sub--Judice.*

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS IN KARNAL DISTRICT.

*2612. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the hon. Chief Minister received a deputation on the 13th April, 1950 at Karnal in connection with the cases of allotments of lands of Muslim landlords to small allottees; if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

Yes. The hon. Chief Minister received a deputation on the 13th April, 1950 at Karnal in connection with the case of allotment of lands of Muslim landlords to small allottees in the Karnal district

There were 39 villages in which resident tenants held more than 40% of the evacuee's land, out of these 27 villages had already been allotted to allottees with large holdings and it was considered that their demand for tenants at will would absorb all the resident tenants. Some adjustments in the *tariqa taqsim* were also made to ensure that as far as practicable, land held by tenants at will should go to bigger allottees.

In village Indri Tehsil Karnal, no adjustments were necessary as it had been allotted to Shujabad claimants who were not tillers and were in need of tenants at will. Similarly no adjustments were required in village Bakana, Tehsil Thanesar as it had been declared a *fauji* village, and the allottees had already moved from camp and constructed their temporary huts. Necessary adjustments were made in the remaining ten villages. The allotments of small allottees were cancelled and in their place bigger allottees were imported.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the representation which was submitted to the Government was accepted ; if so, to what extent ?

Minister : I have given the details of 39 villages.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether these disposessed tenants were given any benefits after they had represented to the Government ?

Minister : The demands of these tenants were accepted in toto in 27 villages. In Shujaabad the tenants-at-will did not experience any difficulty.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the number of bigger allottees who were allotted land and the smaller allottees who were disposessed ?

Minister : I require notice to answer this question.

TENANTS OF VILLAGE ISLAMGARH CHHUCHAK, DISTRICT ROHTAK.

*2613. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the standing crops of the poor tenants of village Islamgarh Chhuchak, district Rohtak has been allotted and given possession of to the big colonist allottees inspite of the fact that the tenants had submitted *qabuliat namas* in time ; if so, how much such land of the tenants has been allotted to colonist allottees ;

(b) the number of such dispossessed tenants and the colonist allottees benefitted by this allotment seperately ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) & (b). There are only six landless tenants of village Islamgarh who were evicted from evacuee lands as they refused to come to agreement with allottees or to execute *qabuliat namas* agreeing to pay the customery rent. Three quasi permanant allottees were given the possession of their land. In spite of this the tenants forcibly availed of the crops.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware that the tenants were dispossessed of the land in spite of the fact that they had submitted *qabuliat namas* in time ?

Minister : They did not execute them and were not prepared to pay the customary rents.

RESTORATION OF POSSESSION OF LANDS TO TENANTS.

*2614. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Rehabilitation directed the Karnal Rehabilitation authorities on 23rd July 1950 at Panipat to stop restoration of possession of lan s to tenants for a week ; if so, whether he was competent to do so ;

(b) whether the restoration work was really stopped ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) & (b) A deputation of land allottees waited on the Director, General Rehabilitation at Panipat on 23rd July 1950 and represented that though they had sown crops on the land allotted to them they were being deprived of their allotments and land was being restored to ten nts who were already owners of fairly big areas. As this was obviously unjust, the Director General Rehabilitation, asked the Tahsildar, Panipat, to stay the restoration of possession of land to such tenants till the matter is considered in detail at a meeting of the Additional Deputy Commissioners, which was to be held at Jullundur on 28th July 1950, and orders of the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, are obtained. Since then, the Commissioner, Ambala Division, has passed orders that in cases of such type land is not to be restored and this order has been confirmed by the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation. As Director Gener l of Rehabilitation, he was competent to pass stay orders under the circumstances.

RESTORATION OF LANDS TO TENANTS IN DISTRICT KARNAL.

*2615. **Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state: whether any applications for exemption and restoration of lands by the tenants in District Karnal were received by the Government; if so, how many, and the number of those accepted by the Government ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail: Yes. 1159 applications were received out of which 779 were accepted.

STIPENDS GIVEN TO HARIJAN STUDENTS IN THE STATE.

*3032. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of stipends given to Harijan boys studying in the Government and Private Schools and Colleges in the State district-wise ;

(b) the number of boys with the names of schools and colleges so benefitted school and college-wise and the total amount so distributed during the year 1950-51 ;

(c) the total number of Harijan boys studying in all the Colleges in the State ;

(d) the number of boys benefitted by the free grant of books in the State together with their value ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

(a) & (b) Statement is laid on the table†

(c) 499.

(d) No free grants in the form of books have been given by the Government.

†Kept in the Library.

RESIGNATION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER.

Mr. Speaker : I have to inform the House that Thakur Pancham Chand has resigned the office of the Deputy Speaker. I have further to inform the House that I have fixed Monday, the 26th, March, 1951, as the day for holding the election to fill this vacancy.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. Speaker : The House will now resume discussion on the Demand for General Administration.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Sialkot, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) **:** Yesterday I was submitting, Sir, that the criticism that we offer here does not reflect our personal opinions but represents the view-point and feelings of the people whom we meet outside this House Surely, no one can deny that it is our duty to voice their grievances and therefore to attribute any personal motives to us is unfair. Again a large number of people are critical of the administration it is not for nothing. Their opinion about its efficiency is based on personal experience. If you enquire of these people in the galleries or those you come across on the Mall as to what has brought them here, the defects and shortcomings of the administration will become manifest Everyone of them, you will find complains that in spite of writing so many letters to a certain department, nothing has been done. There is so much delay in the disposal of work and such a sense of irresponsibilty that if you want a very small thing done and you write to the office concrned you will not receive a reply in spite of repeated reminders and you will have to approach the clerk concerned personally and visit him five to ten times before he will design to put up your case So is the the case with applications for arms licences or renewal of licences. There are thousand of cases in which two years have elapsed but no action has been taken on any application for renewal of a licence. It is not even known to the dealing clerk where the old licence of an

applicant is lying-he is himself so much puzzled. If you have a look at his table you will find piles of dusty files lying all over it. In the last session I had narrated how in order to have a payment of Rs. 15, I had to spend Rs. 16 and to make five visits to the office concerned into the bargain. I think many Members of this House will also have gone through a similar experience. The officers themselves are heard complaining that if they ask for any papers they are siade to be untracable. And if the officer writes to another department for a copy of a Government letter which is not tracable in his office he receives the same reply from there.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the method and manner of making appointments and promotions in Government offices because these have a vital effect on the efficiency of work. The chances of persons who want to get into Government service on the strength of their qualifications these days are very small indeed. On the other hand those whose families have some political influence, or those who are connected with some M. L. A. or a Minister are the candidates most likely to be successful in securing a Government job these days. Any person who can assure an M. L. A. of ten or fifteen votes in the next elections gets his recommendation and support. Besides these two categories there is a third category of candidates who have equal if not more chances of getting Government posts and promotions if they happen to be already in service than the persons of the second category. I am referring to the relations of the P. As and stenographers attached to the Ministers and the Heads of Departments. Believe me, Sir, a P. A saying to his wife that if she should have given birth to the son four years earlier he would have been a Matriculate by this time and well fixed up in Government service. Thanks to his influence, such a matter is of very common occurence these days. Such like domestic brawls-a husband remonstrating with his wife for not having borne a son earlier-are very, common now-a-days. Another thing that frequently comes to ones notice these days is a son saying to his mother that if she had taken the trouble of bearing him a few years earlier his son would surely have by this time been sent for Tehsildarship or P. C. S., thanks to his personal influence. When the mother asks him if there are not many other persons in his office both very senior and more qualified, the son replies, if she does not know, that at the time of partition when the dictionary was also divided the words 'merit' and 'efficiency' did not come to the share of the Government he was working under. (*Laughter*).

[Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa]

For all the favouritism and nepotism prevalent in the administration, primaty responibility is that of the hon. Ministers. Whenever they help an undeserving person to get an appointment, the Head of the Department thinks that he has now acquired a right to appoint two of his own men no matter what be their qualifications. Sir, you must have heard the age-old saying that if the king of the land takes a single blade of grass from a field unlawfully his officers and followers do not hesitate to loot the whole field It has a great application in the context of present day administrative conditions.

Then, Sir, I am really amazed at the repid promotion of officials serving in the temporary departments. An official who was drawing Rs. 100 per mesem in 1947 is today holding a post carrying a pay of Rs. 800. An official who was just a stenographer three years back is today holding the post of Assistant Director; and such instances can easily be multiplied. It appears there is a 'loot' going on in these departments. No regard is paid to qualifications and merit. Whoever manages to please the boss gets a promotion even though he may be junior to ten persons. The cases are not referred to the Public Service Commission at all.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Can an hon. Minister look into a file while he is in the House ?

Mr. Speaker : If the file relates to the subject matter under dicussion to which the hon. Minister has to make a reply, certainly he can see that file otherwise not.

Chief Minister : Well, Sir, this file relates to Canal and Drainage Act and 'Kacha Pucca incident' and so on. If the hon. Member wants I can let him know about all these files that are with me.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : Sir, during the past two or three years a very large number of officials have been promoted to very high posts in the temporary depart ments. An official who was getting three or four hundred rupees in his parent department has many times been appointed to a post carrying more than a thousand rupees a month in a temporary department I fail to follow the logic of these promotions. If the officials who continue to serve in their own departments are given three or four hundred rupees why should a person who has been transferred to some other department get a thousand rupees or more. If the salary of an official is increased by ten or twenty per cent, the increase is

understandable but a jump from Rs 400 to Rs 1,000 or more is beyond my comprehension. In these circumstances I suggest that in case a genuine reduction in expenditure is wanted very high salaries should not be given to those officials in the temporary departments, whose services have been secured from other departments of the Government. The Government should have some principles in the making of appointments and should not do things in an arbitrary manner. I may illustrate mysif by narating a story. Sometime past an English man was appointed a Superintendent of Police in an Indian State According to the practice and traditions of the States he did things as he liked. He promoted or demoteed his subordinates without giving any thought to their merits or demerits. If he felt like promoting a Sub-Inspector to the post of a Deputy Superintendent Police, he ordered so, irrespective of the fact whether the individual concerned deserved it or not. He was equally without a principle when he had to demote an official. Many times just for no reason he would ask a Sub-Inspector and a Constable to exchange their uniforms. He carried on his administration like this for some years and then resigned. On his retirement he wrote a book entitled "My Follies in a Foolish State". I think the officials who have been given promotions in the temporary departments of this Government may also be writing such books after they have retired from service

Chief Minister : One will write a book only if he has committed a folly.

Sardar Swaraj Singh : The hon. Member himself will write a very good book.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : I am placing before the House the general feelings of the people and I should not be surprised if such feelings take the form of some such book.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : Is the hon. Member refering to the follies committed by the Government before October or those commtted after October?

Mr Speaker : My I ask the hon. Member not to make any insinuation? When he does so, the hon. Member who is speaking will make a reply to that insinuation and the thing will go on

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : Sir, as a matter of fact I expected such a question. I may tell my hon. Friend that I am not

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infallible and I may have also committed follies. But this does not mean that if I have been committing follies my successors should also do the same. And then if my follies have brought me to the place where I am my friends should rest assured that they will also meet the same fate if they do not make any effort to improve. I dare say that this Government is suffering from very serious shortcomings and perhaps the most serious one is that it is not capable of taking final decisions. Even when a decision has been taken the subordinates do not feel like putting it through as they know that it may be changed any moment. I can give definite instances where a decision has been taken by the Cabinet and, after approval of the Governor has also been published in the Official Gazette, but it has been setaside at the time of putting it through. Such an attitude on the part of the Government gives rise to great discontent among the people and there is absolutely no justification for continuing it. In this very connection I may bring to the notice of the House another very deplorable fact. It is this that there is no proper distribution of functions between the Secretaries and the hon. Ministers. Neither the hon. Ministers nor their Secretaries know their sphere of action and many times legal opinion is to be had whether an hon. Minister is justified in interfering in a particular matter. I remember that in a particular case an hon. Minister happened to write a note on a file and the Secretary concerned inquired of the legal advisor whether the hon. Minister was within his rights when he wrote that note. The legal advisor remarked that notes like the one in question only deserve to be thrown in waste-paper baskets This is the sorry state of affairs which we are in. Firstly the hon. Ministers decide on matters on which they are not competent to decide and then when they are competent to decide they do not take any final decisions. The subordinate officers are never sure whether they should commence work under the orders or not. It will be recalled that during the last rainy season great havoc was caused on account of the breaches in a Bund on the Ravi river, in the Gurdaspur District. The two Tehsils of Ajnala in the Amritsar district and Batala in the Gurdaspur district particularly suffered incalculable damage as the breaches in the Bund contributed very enormously to the floods in these places But I am grieved to say that proper repairs have still not been carried out to this Bund known as the Dhusi Bund and in case floods are again let loose by nature next year, we may be faced with the same tragedy which was experienced this year. It is the 20th of March to-day and we may be faced with rains after

three or four months. We cannot afford to be idle in the meantime. We should take steps to see that this Bund is properly repaired so that the people are not put to hardships again.

The Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, wrote to the Government that if he was provided forty thousand rupees, he would try to get this bund contsructed with the help of the local people, but the Government replied that this work could not be taken up till the Public Works Department had examined the site. This work has now been entrusted to the Public Works Department and they have submitted an estimate of Rs. 89,000. The work has not yet commenced and in my opinion it will be started when the floods actually set in. Then the officers in-chage of the work would be in a position to say that earth was put there but it had been washed away by the floods. In this manner the whole amount will be shown as having been spent on this process. Then, Sir, great demage was done by the last floods at Narot Jaimal Singh in Gurdaspur District. I fear that when the floods again set in during the ensuing rainy season, heavy damage will be caused again. The Government has not cared to construct a bund there. It is said that the construction of a bund was likely to give rise to dispute with the neighbouring dominion. The rivers go on changing their courses, but is the fear of some dispute with the neighbouring dominion on that account going to prevent us from undertaking necessary work in this border area ?

Then, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the 'Grow More Food Campaign'. It is said that we are producing less food. In this connection, I pointed out to the Government, when I was a member of the Cabinet, that there was one such area near Dera Baba Nanak, where very good quality rice could be grown. I have come to know that the Government of India appointed a Committee to find out the area where best rice was produced. Samples were collected from all over the country and the judges, among whom Shri Rajagopalachariar was one, decided that the rice produced in the area referred to by me was the best. That area does not receive sufficient rains. Either the rains are not sufficient at the time of sowing or they are insufficient afterwards. For this reason sufficient quantity of rice is not produced there. The Government promised to extend the existing Fatehgarh distributory to serve this area but nothing has been done during the last one and a half years. We cannot grow more food with the help of paper schemes only.

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An other thing to which I wish to re er is the manner in which the Government makes its decisions. The hon. Chief Minister said that he had authorised the Deputy Commissioners of Districts where locust was doing damage to spend as much many as necessary on their destruction. In the same manner during the last floods the Deputy Commissioners were asked to incur as much expenditure for helping the people as they considered necessary. The Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, who is not there now, asked the food grains depot holders to supply the necessary wheat flour, for which payment would be made by the Government later on. These people now say that a sum of thirty five thousand rupees is due to them on that account but they do not know whom to approach for the same The Deputy Commissioner, who asked them to supply the articles of food has been transferred from there and the present Deputy Commissioner pleads ignorance about the whole affairs. If some written orders had been given to the shop-keepers, this difficulty would not have arisen.

Then Sir, we are told very often that certain things cannot be done on account of financial stringency. As the hon Members are aware, Drugs Act is in force in this State as well as in other States. According to that Act all the medicines have to be prepared according to a certain standard. It is essential that those drugs should contain the necessary ingredients without which they can have no effect on the person using them

The manufacturers of these drugs in this State wrote to the Government that because they did not own any laboratory or apparatus for testing their drugs, the Government should arrange to get these tested in its laboratory, for which they were prepared to pay the charges which might be prescribed. The Inspector General of Hospitals promised to undertake this work in Government laboratory, but now the drug manufacturers have received a reply from the Government that their demand cannot be acceded to on account of financial stringency. I am unable to understand how the question of financial strigency concerns this matter. The manufacturers had agreed to pay the testing charges, and as the laboratory and the doctors are already there, this would have resulted in some profit to the Government. I feel that this plea of 'financial stringency' is advanced without excmining whether it is applicable to the case in question. As a result of the abovesaid attitude of the Government,

untested drugs are being sold in the market and it is having a bad effect on the health of the people. Our Chief Minister is himself a medical man and even if the other Ministers do not realise the importance of this matter, he should be in a position to realise it fully.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is that of consolidation of holdings which is going to be taken up in this State. Jaribs were required for this work and the Government invited tenders for their supply. The Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur was also asked to get jaribs prepared. He enquired from the manufacturers at Batala and they agreed to supply these at the rate of eight rupees per jarib When the Chief Purchase Officer of our Government went to Batala and the factory owners there told him that they were prepared to supply jaribs at eight rupees each, he told them that it was not good on their part to demand such low rate as things could not be done properly at that rate. They, therefore, agreed to raise the rate to thirteen rupees per jarib. I think, ultimately the rate of Rs. 13 instead of Rs. 8 for a Jarib was sanctioned. Although the difference in the two quotations is only of five rupees but the difference in the total expenditure on 10 or 15 thousand of Jaribs will exceed Rs. 1 lakh or so. Thus while every effort should be made to save whatever is possible at this time of financial stringency, the Government machinery does not try to save where saving is possible.

As regards the consolidation of holdings, I must say that the Government has taken a commendable step in starting this work in the State. But it should be carried in such a way that the village paths are widened. At present they have become very narrow and intricate. This is a very important matter and should be kept in view while consolidating the holdings. Then the Government, in order to expedite the work, is giving it to the Deputy Commissioners and the Tehsildars who are already overworked. But it should see that by doing so it does not create more difficulties for the zamindars. There is a Per ian couplet which runs as follows :

तरसम नरसी बकाबा ए अंराबी ।
कि ई राह कि तू मे रवी बतुरकिस्तान अस्त ॥

ਤਰਸਮ ਨਰਸੀ ਬਕਾਬਾਏ ਅਰਾਬੀ।
ਕਿ ਈਂ ਰਾਹ ਕਿ ਤੂ ਮੇ ਰਵੀ ਬਤੁਰਕਸਤਾਨ ਅਸਤ ॥

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Previously we tried to expedite the work of rehabilitation. We wanted to finish it in six months. The result was that the amount of work increased and there crept into it many mistakes and difficulties on account of haste. If this work of consolidation of land holdings is now entrusted to the Patwaris, I am afraid the Government, instead of decreasing the hardships of the people, will render many people landless In this way, the difficulties of the people will be multiplied. The Patwaris will create more conflicts and more troubles in the State, if they are entrusted with this work. It is, therefore, necessary that this work should not be done in haste. It should be done after full and mature consideration. The idea that it should be done soon in view of the coming elections, will create more difficulties. It is necessary that it should be carried on proper lines and not in a roughshod manner.

A lot has been said on the question of language on the floor of the House. The hon. Members have been saying that this unpleasant situation should not have been allowed to develop. But I think, if it is a deplorable situation, the Government should have foreseen it long ago. It should have tried to avoid it. In spite of the fact that this situation is detrimental to the interests of the State, one Minister has been saying one thing and the other something else. I was surprised to read in the newspapers that a Minister of our Government has been touring the State with a Harijan Welfare Commissioner of the Government of India, named Shri Kant. It is deplorable that in spite of the fact that the Ministers of the Government are blamed for having created trouble, the very same Minister of our Government should go about with that man and thus again create a misunderstanding. Such things make the situation all the more worse. They aggravate the situation instead of easing it. But the pity is that the Government pays no heed to the counsel of sanity and reason The need of the hour is that the defects in the Government should be mended. In order to make this new experience of Democracy in our country a success, it is necessary that proper precedents should be established. We cannot say that the future legislators will be better than the present ones If they are worse, then the precedents established now will do greater harm to the nation. It becomes our duty, therefore, that we should really follow the footsteps of the great leaders whom we daily eulogise in our speeches and writings. If we continue to follow our present policies, the day is not far off when the people would trample under their feet

in the thoroughfares the pictures of our leaders and their good names will be thrown to the winds due to our misdeeds. When I pass through the bazars, I hear a record singing as follows:

मोहे मेरा बचपना ला दे, सजना जवांनी भाए ना

ਮੋਹੇ ਮੇਰਾ ਬਚਪਨ ਲਾ ਦੇ, ਸੱਜਨਾ ਜਵਾਨੀ ਭਾਏ ਨਾਂ।

So when I go in the bazar or on the road I find people asking that they want back the slavery, under which the differences between man and man were not so acute and they could get enough to eat and to put on and which was much better than the freedom that we have, got, the slavery when people could enjoy sound sleep under the sense of security that they had got, and the women could go about with their ornaments on without any fear, that slavery under which there was no question of Hindu and Sikh and the peasants and other people were happy, people say, was better than this freedom which creates differences among the people. They say that they do not want the freedom in which people are free to starve and to go about naked. They say that they want back that slavery in which they were happy and comfortable. It is, therefore, necessary that the defects in the administration should be removed after listening to the grievances of the public. Mere saying that the administration is good will serve no purpose.

(*Shri Bhim Sen Sachar got up to speak*) (*interruption*).

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, if you don't want front benchers to speak I will resume my seat. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: I want to punish those persons who interrupt too much.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur: (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*): Sir, we thought that after the emancipation of India from the foreign yoke the conditions prevailing in our country would improve and the public would feel a glow of independence. But our expectations have not been fulfilled. I am glad that the party which made sacrifices for the achievement of freedom has come out successful in attaining its goal. But I am sorry that the hopes which it held out to the people have not been realised. It has failed in coming up to its professions. People were told that on the achievement of independence no officer

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would be getting more than five hundred rupees as his salary and that no person will be given less than one hundred rupees; that land revenue and abiana would be reduced; that medical facilities would be provided in the farthest corner of the State that poor people will have facilities for the education of their children and that every one would have a right to live independently without any restraints. S eeches were made. We were even told that tax would be levied on agricultural income and no land revenue would be charged in free India. Who does not know that those in power today were loud in saying that there would be a fair distribution of the income of the State? But it is regrettable that today no steps are taken to implement the promises that were made before the achievement of liberty. Now what public says is:

हाथी के दाँत खाने के और दिखाने के और

ਹਾਥੀ ਕੇ ਦਾਂਤ ਖਾਣੇ ਕੇ ਔਰ ਦਖਾਣੇ ਕੇ ਔਰ ।

The conditions at present are even worse than before. The burden of the top-heavy administration falls upon the poor tax-payer. There is no fair distribution at all. The Heads of the Departments are getting three thousands five hundred rupees by way of their salaries in addition to such allowances as dearness allowance, travel ing allowance, compensatory allowance, house rent allowance, free ration and so many other facilities

Chief Minister: Is the hon. Lady Member sure of what she is stating?

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur: Yes, I wish to compare these allowances with those given to such poor persons as Foot constables and Head constables who are getting paltry sums of Rs. 33 and Rs. 50 p. m. as their salary. Special pay given to Foot constables and Head constables is rupees three and rupees seven respectively. House rent given to them is about four or five rupees. The hon. Members can well imagine the plight of such persons. Can any one get even a square yard of land for a sum of rupees four? And yet this is the house rent which is being paid to the poor employees by the Government. The allowance which these people get for clothing and equipment is at the rate of rupees two per month. Compensatory allowance is eleven rupees per month. This is the example of the

fair distribution of wealth by our Government. In my opinion no one should be paid more than five hundred, or at the most one thousand rupees, and less than hundred or one hundred and fifty rupees. So long as Government does not look to the interests of the low-paid employees, it cannot run smoothly and efficiently. Sir, my submission is that the top-heavy administration stands in the way of the progress of our State. The white elephants that are standing at our doors are not at all necessary. The foreign Government in India created them in order to subdue the voice of the people and to keep them enslaved. They served the purpose of the foreign rulers very well. But we no longer stand in need of them. We are a free people and so we do not require such high-paid officers for keeping down our own brethren. As a matter of fact such officers themselves should come forward and say that they are prepared to serve the motherland with lower salaries. Therein lies the true spirit of nationalism. I appeal to the Government to approach the Government of India if it is the Central Government which stands in the way of reduction of salaries of such high paid officers. An appeal should be addressed to the Government at New Dehli that ours is a deficit State and a small one comprising twelve districts only. It is not possible for us to pull on with such a top-heavy administration. The Central Government should take mercy upon us and allow us to revise the grades of high-paid officers.

Sir, it is not only the topheavy administration that is the bane of our State but at present the Heads of the Departments are responsible for corruption, slackness and inefficiency. In united Punjab of twenty nine districts there were two Financial Commissioners. But now in the State of Punjab comprising twelve districts only there are three Financial Commissioners. And yet there are camplaints from every quarter. It has become usual in every department that the files take much time for disposal. There is slackness and inefficency everywhere. But the excuse which is always put forth for this is that the work is heavy and the hands to do are short. In this connection I wish to point out where the shoe pinches. I want to throw some light on it.

Mr. Speaker : There is already much light here (*Laughter*)

Shri Prabodh Chandra : There is so much darkness everywhere under the present regime that some light is needed.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : Sir, my submission is that the number of officers should be reduced. The burden of the

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taxes should be lightened. I am sorry to note that although the taxes are increasing the educational and medical facilities provided to the common man during the British rule are daily decreasing. Everybody knows that during the British regime Quinine and Sulphonomide tablets were distributed in the rural areas and facilities for the treatment of animals in the Veterinany hospitals were satisfactory. But at present there is a deterioration in both these respects and the people are not satisfied. The taxes are increasing daily, even articles of daily consumption and eatables are being taxed. All this is being done by the party which claims to be following the footsteps of Mahatama Gandhi—who, as a matter of fact, undertook Dandi March when salt was taxed by the Government. But now what do we find ? Even taxes have been imposed on the things which people eat. This is the state of affairs as we find it today. But our hon. Chief Minister says in his Budget speech on page 12 that :

> The hon. Members would be glad to note that the expenditure on our beneficent departments has been steadily rising.

On page 3 it has been stated that the increase in revenue expenditure is due to Police, Pensions and Education etc. As regards Education, I wish to submit that......

Mr. Speaker : Education Department will be discussed separately.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : Now I would like to draw your attention to page 3 of the pamphlet entitled ' Punjab on the March.' You will find that new schools have been opened at Simla, Dalhousie, Jullundur and Jagraon and none worth the name in rural areas. It is a thousand pities that those very people who fill the coffers of the Government are allowed to remain steeped into ignorance and no steps are taken to liquidate their illiteracy or poverty. It pains me to say that the policy of the Government is to suppress the already down trodden and provide facilities to those who already enjoy them in abundance. I would request the Government to devote some attention to the provision of educational facilities to the rural population of the State. But what to talk of schools, even medical aid is very scarce in the villages. Government have not opened sufficient dispensaries to alleviate the distress of the villagers. May I hope that Government will attend to the needs of the rural people in connection with the medical aid required by them.

Then, Sir, a huge amount of money has been provided for the maintenance of Police. I would like to make a few observations on this subject. Well, Sir, after the attainment of Independence, we have become a border State; and therefore, the responsibility for making defence arrangements falls on the shoulders of the Central Government. But what do we find here? Our State has to maintain Provincial Armed Police for the protection of borders of India at its own expense. This is not fair. When we ourselves need every pie to improve our shattered economic condition and are taking loans to rehabilitate our displaced brethren, how can we afford to bear the burden of a huge expenditure which we are incurring on Armed Police to safeguard the borders. I would urge upon the Government to impress upon the Central Government the desirability of taking over the responsibility of the d fence of the borders or giving us a subsidy for meeting the expenditure on the armed police. In this connection I would like to make a suggestion regarding the border trade. Now, Sir, since we ar living on the border, we are likely to bear any calamity first that may occur to us as a result of unhappy activities of the adjoining country. Then, it is we who invariably suffer a lot from raids made by Pakistanis on our borders. In other words where suffering is concerned, it falls to our lot. But where border trade is concerned, it is the people of other States, who are made to derive benefit from it by the Central Government which has retained to itself the power of issuing permits for border trade. The people who live at a safe distance, are made to earn more while we who deserve to be helped more, are not being extended the same amount of help in the form of increased number of permits to our traders, as is being given to the traders of other States. I would request my Government to urge the Central Government to issue permits liberally to those people who are living on the border. In this connection I would like to make a constuctive suggestion. Government should form co-operative societies of the traders of this border State and issue them necessary permits. This would result in twofold advantages. First, the Government will be saved of the expenditure which it has to incur on anti-smuggling drive carried on by it, because these co-operative societies would make their own arrangements to stop smuggling of commodities in or from Pakistan. They would make every effort to stop it because it would be in their own interest and the interest of the trade. Secondly, the economic condition of the people of our State would be improved as a result of the increased trade with Pakistan.

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Then, I would draw your attention to page 3 of the 'Punjab on the March' where a note on Police Academy, Kunjpura, appears. It is stated therein:-

> It will be hoped that after the first five years or so, the Academy will be producing every year first rate policemen, fully developed in mind and body, and brought up under ideal envoironments and conditions most conducive to the national progress of India.

I quite appreciate the ideal that the Government has set before itself in the matter of producing high type of policemen. But I wish that they should consider service of people as their first and formost duty and should not lord over the public as has been the case so far.

Now coming to the administration, I may point out that its main features or characteristics are considered to be threefold. Firstly, law; secondly character and lastly the method of employment of law. Now let us see how far our administration comes up to these three essentials. So far as law is concerned, we are grateful to the Britisher who has left us a good legacy because the whole structure of our State is based on that law. But as regards character, it is conspicuous in our administration by its absence. Not a vestige of it is to be found in the administration particularly after the partition The enforcement of law depends upon the first two essentials and we are well aware how this is being done by the officers. It goes without saying that the law does not command the same respect as it should. Besides, the public and the officers have arraigned themselves, so to say, in two rival camps. India having attained Indpendence, the former want to live as free people but the officers want to maintan their supremacy over the latter by running the administration in the same bureaucratic manner as was done during the British regime. Now what do these officers do? Whenever receptions are held in honour of the hon. Ministers and other high Congress leaders like the Congrass President, they would proclaim to the world that they are the servants of the public but their professions belie their actions. My brothers coming from the rural areas will bear me out how even small officials behave improperly and domineer the people. Nobody can escape their vituperative language. Not even ladies, what to talk of gentlemen, are safe from them. Beating of innocent people by these officials is an ordinary affair. My brother Sardar Sajjan Singh has already related to the hon. Members the harrowing tale of what happened at Kacha Pacca village. The atrocities committed there, have refreshed

the unhappy memories of General Dyre's heinous deeds. The terrible happening at Bhindi Syedan constitute not only a slur on the police and the administration in general but also tantamounts to blackening the face of humanity. Now the people have begun to form this impression that their daughter's and sister's honour is not safe under this national regime. I have no mind to go into the details of the case to which I have alluded because I am given to understand that that case is *sub judice*. Mr. Speaker, you are well aware that we find only one glaring instance in our ancient history wherein under the regime of Kaurvas, an attempt was made by one of the distinguished members of the State to dishonour Draupati by removing clothes in the public. But now happenings of this type are the order of the day in our village areas Now, Sir, if we had been under a foreign regime, we could say that the responsibility for such atrocities lay on its shoulders, because it had no sympathy with our people. But here, when our own national government is in power, the case is different. We are a free people and yet our womenfolk are being subjected to such inhuman indignities, as have tarnished the fair name of this Congress Government. The hon. Members are well aware of the results of the attempt to dishonour Draupati. The Kaurvas, their relations, friends and all kindred people had to pay very dearly for this. They were obliterated from the face of the Earth by Pandvas. Does this administration want the history to repeat itself now, if it is not going to mend matters? It is quoted with pride that woman is the builder and maker of a nation. But is this the type of atrocious treatment which my brothers want to see perpeterated by the administration on these very beings for whom they profess to have the greatest respect and honour? It pains me to say that the wickedness shown in its nakedness by the police on women recently, will remain a standing stigma on humanity. I am very grateful to the hon. Chief Minister who took prompt action in the matter when it was brought to his notice. But it is a thousand pities that while we people here at the heights of Simla should come to know of this heinous crime, the officer incharge of the district should remain ignorant of the facts for a considerable period. The news about this matter appeared in press and yet he remained uninformed by his subordinates. I may mention here that the officers take strong objection to my as well as Sardar Sajjan Singh's activities when we try to see things for ourselves in the villages, without of course, interfering the least in the administration. My submission is that when we cause no interference in their work, why should they feel irritated at our activities. Why should

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they object, if they fail to act and mend matters and we move the Government to set things right ? I think such responsible officers should try to appreciate the co-operation which we want to offer rather than look with disfavour on us. The actions of these officers can be likened to a compounder who feels angry with a woman who informed the doctor that her sister was suffering from acute stomachache. The Compounder thinks that the sister of the patient should not inform the doctor but he himself should know of it in due course. In this connection I may also point out that during the discussion on flood situation in the State, when inaction and dereliction of duty on the part of certain officers in Jullundur and Amritsar districts became crystal clear, these officers were very cross with us and said that it was advisable that Dr. Prakash Kaur and Sardar Sajjan Singh did not meddle with their affairs. Not only this. They object to the Congress workers in the rural areas and try to involve them in certain cases with a view to putting them into trouble.

Chief Minister : May I submit that the case has been investigated and investigations are complete. If the hon. Lady Member says anything more on this point, it might affect the cases.

Mr. Speaker : That case might go to the Court so the Lady Member should not pass any remarks.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : Very well, Sir, I will not say anything more so far as this matter is concerned. What I wish to point out is this that the officers should not mind if their failings are discussed here on the floor of this House. As a matter of fact it is our bounden duty to bring all the difficulties of the people to the notice of the Government. I am really constrained to remark that no notice is taken of what the hon. Members speak here on the floor of the House. The suggestions made by hon. Members in the course of their speeches are not considered by the Government, what to speak of taking any action. I take this opportunity of warning my hon. Friends in general and the hon. Members occupying the Ministerial Benches in particular that if they want to have an easy walk-over in the coming elections then they must improve the administration, have full confidence in themselves and thus make all-out efforts to remove the grievances of the people. Our Government should make it a point to raise the prestige of the administration.

Mr. Speaker, through you I would like to request the officers of the Government not to mind my remarks. On the other hand they

should make bold to admit that whatever has happend is not fair. In this connection I am reminded of a saying in Punjabi which runs as under :—

मन्याँ तू सूरमा बलवान हैं । मन्या तू धनी विद्वान है ॥
पर नहीं इनसानियत दा जे खयाल । फिर भला तू किस तरह इनसान है ॥

ਮੰਨਿਆਂ ! ਤੂੰ ਸੂਰਮਾ ਬਲਵਾਨ ਹੈਂ ।
ਮੰਨਿਆਂ ! ਤੂੰ ਧਨੀ ਹੈਂ ਵਿਦਵਾਨ ਹੈਂ ॥
ਪਰ ਨਹੀਂ ਇਨਸਾਨੀਅਤ ਦਾ ਜੇ ਖਿਆਲ ।
ਫਿਰ ਭਲਾ ਤੂੰ ਕਿਸਤ੍ਰਾਂ ਇਨਸਾਨ ਹੈਂ ॥

There is another point towards which I would like to draw the attention of the Government and that is regarding the criminal Tribes. On page 96 of the New Expenditure (1951-52) provision has been made for providing educational facilities for the members of the Criminal Tribes colonies in the Karnal and Ambala Districts. I would request the Government to make similar provisions for providing educational facilities to the members of the Criminal Tribes colony in the Ajnala Tehsil who earn their livelihood by weaving cots and are thus unable to give education to their children. If adequate arrange ments are made by the Government for providing them with educational facilities I am sure, they will be able to improve their lot.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Mr. Speaker, I have really been pained to hear the speeches of some of my hon. Friends on the Demand, now before the House, which was also under discussion yesterday. I am sure, Sir, that you too must have had the same experience so far as these speeches are concerned. The reasons for this are quite clear. If what has been stated by my hon. Friends on the floor of the House is based on facts then we must all feel sorry for that and we must do a little bit of heart searching and find for ourselves as to where we stand. The hon. Chief Minister has already expressed the view that at the time of the elections we will have to approach the people and get their verdict. But I submit, Sir, that before we do that we have to see whether the present conditions permit us to convince the people outside and get their verdict. Mr. Speaker, you remember that my hon. Friend Sardar Shiv Saran Singh remarked in this forceful speech yesterday that all the allegations made by the hon. Members against the Government were baseless and unfounded. In fact he went to the extent of saying that it ill-behoved hon. Members to make scathing criticism against the Government. If what my hon. Friend has stated is a fact then I cannot do without saying this that the unnecessary and uncalled for criticim against the Government would produce very bad effect on the people. I would therefore take this opportunity of requesting the hon. Chief Minister to take strong action against those who say such things against the Government on the floor of the House as are not based on facts. But

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all the same I would like to ask how is it that almost all the hon. Members and particulary the hon. Members of the Government party have not hesitated to condemn the Government in one way or the other? There is no doubt about it that the Congress Party as such cannot be discussed here on the floor of this House. My hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh raised an objection whether the Congress Party could be discussed here on the floor of this House. What I wish to submit is that the scathing criticisms advanced by the party members against their own Government have adverse effects on the people outside this House. Under the circumstances, it is the bounden duty of the hon. Chief Minister to take strong action against those hon. Members of the Congress Assembly Party who make irresponsible reemarks against the Government because such remarks have its repercussions on the administration of the State.

Sir, I would like to submit that if we, who are the members of the Congress Assembly Party, or others bahave in such a manner that the discipline is impaired then it is the duty of the hon Chief Minister who is the Leader of the House to reprimand us and if need be to take strong action against us.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, may I know whether it is the duty of the Leader of the House to maintain discipline in the House or that of the hon. Speaker?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, I have great respect for my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh for his ability and faithful application to his work. But I regret to say that he does not realise that whatever is said by the hon. Members of this House has its repercussions on the administration and the people outside.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, my hon. Friend has remarked that if any member of the Congress Party behaves in a manner which is against the interests of the party he should be taken to task by the Leader of the House. Can such matters be discussed on the floor of the House?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Sir, whatever business is transacted in this House and whatever speeches are made here have an effect on the administration. I am saying so in the capacity of a Member of this House and would welcome a strict control of the Leader on the Members. The people who hear our speeches and hear us saying

things against others naturally carry poor impression about us-who belong to one political party. This spirit of incrimination and recrimination is bound to have adverse effect on the administration of the State. As I am today discussing a demand on General Administration I earnestly wish that our administration should be strong and of a high order. It should be such in which the public may have full confidence. Even the man in the street or a man in the Government administration, wherever he is, should have a word of sympathy and praise for the Government. I would even ask my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh to exercise full control over the Members to prevent them saying things which may have demoralizing effect on the administration. I must appreciate the abilityof my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh who sometimes quietly passes a remark against the Government which goes to the root of the administration. This very remark is reported in the newspapers and the idea contained in those few words goes far deeper into the minds of the people and creates in them an abiding impression that all is not well in the State. So we have to seek a remedy for all this. While disussing this demand I would not like to go into its financial aspects as the demand is such which covers the entire administration right from His Excellency the Governor to the person in the lowest rank. I would, therefore, make a few constructive suggestions to convert our present bad reputation into good reputation. (Voice :

ईं ख्याल अस्तो महाल अस्तो जनूं

ਈਂ ਖਿਆਲ ਅਸਤੋ ਮਹਾਲ ਅਸਤੋ ਜਨੂੰ ।

Some of my hon. Friends say that such an effort is useless and will not bear any fruit. But I must make my own effort in the hope that it may have a salutary efffect upon the Government. There cannot be two opinions about it that the administration of the Government today is better than it used to be in the month of August or September 1947. There is no denying the fact that the standard of administration is at a high level and I must congratulate the services who by their talent, courage and experience have helped to improve the standard of administration. I must, therefore, through you Sir, pay my tribute to them for having done their duty efficiently in most difficult times. I am of the view that if the services are allowed to act on their own initiative without any undue interference by the Government, the state of affairs would change in a few months. We will not then have

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to face the shame and disgrace which we feel today. I do not deny the fact that there are complaints against the services and that there is corruption among them. Nobody can deny this. But I, at the same time, feel that we can run the administration through the help of Government servants. So we will have to consider seriously how to direct the controlling services to work in a proper way. If we could take a right decision in this matter then I can say with confidence that we will be able to improve the tone of the administration. In services there are men of great experience and ability. By their long standing and experience in the administration they have become professionals. They can plan very good schemes and are so intellecually capable that they can write drafts covering 50 pages. Before the attainment of independence the services were kept away from the people. They were the agents of the foreign rulers. When there were complaints against them we used to condemn them on public platforms and by doing so we discharged our duty towards the people. The Government in those days attached due importance to our criticism and tried to mend matters But today when it is our own Government it is not paying any heed to public criticismes. We sometime feelsquite helpless when we see that our voice of protest has no effect whatsoever on our own Government.

Sir, I am one of those who are second to none in paving tribute where it is well-deserved. We must praise the services for the good work that they do but it should also be made clear to them that whoever among them misbehaves will not be spared Just as you, Sir, do not hesitate to pull up a member whom you find violating parliamentary decorum, the Government should not fail to come down upon an errant official with an iron hand.

I feel, Sir, that we the Members of this Assembly and especially the hon. Ministers are primarily responsible for defects in the administration. If today the Ministers take an Oath not to try to influence the Heads of departments in any administrative matter or in the matter of making appointments through telephonic calls or recommendatory chits or verbally, the services will change their character overnight. But in a State where a Minister does not hesitate to or fight shy of visiting a Deputy Commissioner's house at night to press him to do a certain thing for some friend or relative of his; how can you expect the services to discharge their duties in an efficient and honest manner ? When Ministers approach the officers for such

small matters as the transfer of a Sub-Inspector of Police and even a patwari, how can they command any respect and make the services deliver the goods? How beautifully Chaudhri Lahri Singh had compared the services to a fine looking and spirited steed. It is true that if the rider of such a horse is deficient in the art of horsemanship he will surely fail to control it.

Sardar Swaran Singh: And fall flat on ground many a time.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, I have every sympathy for my Friend. (*Laughter*)

But I would advise him not to slacken in his efforts. Who knows he may have another chance to ride on that very horse. (*Renewed Laughter*)

Sir, my suggestion is that the Ministers should always try to remain in their true places. It is when they, forgetting their dignified position, start interfering in small matters and putting pressure on the officers that the administration begins to deteriorate. I would prefer Ministers' doing nothing to their trying to do every thing themselves. That is how they can best serve the interests of administration They should confine themselves to laying down the broad outlines of policies and leave it to their Secretaries and Heads of Departments to fill up the details and carry them out. It is a matter for regret that the officers have a feeling today that initiative no longer rests with them even in small matters and that they have been deprived of all independence of judgement. If the Head of an office feels that an official working under him is spoiling the atmosphere of his office by his misconduct and to retain him would be giving an encourgement to habits of indiscipline and therefore wants to dismiss him but he finds himself helpless in the matter because the official in question has the backing of a particular hon. Minister who sends for his file and instead of terminating his services transfers him to a better post in some other department, how can the administration improve? These small things do have their effect.

Then, Sir, if a Minister reaches a place at 10 p. m. and goes and knocks at the door of some body's house expecting to be treated to supper.. . . . . .

Shri Behari Lal Chanana: Won't that be a surprise visit?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Surely, my hon. Friend has had sufficient experience of the effects of 'surprise visits'?

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Oh, how we wish the system of surprise visits had continued up till this day. How beneficial it would have proved ? In that case, Sir, you would not see law-breakers and blackmarketers strutting on the roads-confident that no body dare point a finger at them. Law is respected not because a policeman is present in every nook and corner but because its majesty inspires awe and respect every where. But it lacks this majesty if its so-called custodians and upholders themselves are hand in glove with its violators.

Sir, you have heard from the mouth of many an hon. Member how in this State it has become impossible for many sections of people to move about freely for one fear or the other. Then, Sir, what has happened in your own native town must be well known to you. That things should come to such a pass that a gathering of two thousand people should be anxious to see the hon. Ministers and they should in a secret manner slink away to the Rest House by crossing the railway line just to avoid the people whom they profess to serve is a matter of very deep regret, Sir. Surely, Sir, how dare the hon. Ministers face the public of the town which was the scene of brutal lathi charges made by the Police on peaceful and non-violent women and men and where respectable citizens were insulted and maltreated in the police lock up ?

Sir, the hon. Chief Minister remarked that the land which was given over for the maternity hospital was worth Rs. 10,000 per acre. I can tell him that it is a great under-estimation of the price. The price of this land is much more than what he says. If he likes he can make the land over to me at the rate of Rs. 20,000 per acre. I am prepared to buy this land at this price.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The hon. Member may still be a gainer.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I shall surely be a gainer when I pay Rs. 20,000 per acre. My hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh is a very clever man and goes into things very deeply and quickly. He is perfectly right when he thinks that after having paid Rs 20,000 for an acre I shall be gaining something. I shall be able to sell this land at Rs 25,000 for an acre very easily As a matter of fact when the hon. Chief Minister quoted this price of Rs 10,000 for an acre I was surprized and wished to verify this information by means of a short notice question. I wished to know as to how this

Speaker could not according to the rules allow the short notice question without the consent of the hon. Minister concerned, and my question had to be referred to the hon. Chief Minister for getting his consent. This consent was not given. The hon. Chief Minister was pleased to reply that he was not prepared to give his consent to the asking of that question as a short notice question. I may tell the hon. Chief Minister that such an attitude on his part does not give a good impression of his administration. The other day he was good enough to say during his speech that the letter in connection with this land for the maternity hospital was received by myself. I admit that it was received by me but I never gave away any land. I only marked the letter to the hon. Minister concerned i.e. the hon. Minister for Revenue at that time. The hon. Minister for Revenue also did not agree to give the land and rejected the application. At this the hon. Chief Minister who was a Minister for Finance at that time approached the Minister concerned for giving away the land but as bad luck would have it his attempt did not succeed. I do not blame my worthy friend for his efforts in this connection as he had to do these things being a Member of the Governing body of the hospital. (At this time a child was heard crying in the gallery).

Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. Why should small children be allowed in the galleries?

Mr. Speaker : I shall take necessary action in the matter.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The poor child having been frightened by Mr. Sachar's speech has started crying.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : My hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh says that a child has started crying on hearing my speech. My hon. Friend should know that truth has the power to move everybody except him who has a heart made of stone. I am stating facts and nothing but facts. I hope the hon. Minister cannot deny any of the facts that I have stated and in case he feels like contradicting any, I am prepared to give him way.

Chief Minister : My hon. Friend should not be anxious, I shall certainly give him a reply.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, what I am driving at is that such things as these have a very bad effect on the administration of the State. I think the hon. Ministers who have to guide the destinies of the State

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should be above reproach. Here I may be asked as to what can be contributed to the administration of the State by the Ministers. My answer is that the Ministers can contribute only character and integrity and nothing else. They cannot contribute anything if they fall into the bad habit of enjoying dinners at the cost of others. As my hon. Friend Chaudhri Faqir Chand pointed out in accordance with a Punjabi adage, it is the tummy which enjoys but it is the eyes that have to pay the price of the enjoyment

ਖਾਵੇ ਪੇਟ ਸ਼ਰਮਾਨ ਅੱਖਾਂ ।

खावे पेट शरमान अखाँ ।

Sir, it is really very unfortunate that so many allegations have been made on the floor of this House by hon. Members and nothing has been done to refute these allegations for maintaining the dignity of this august House of which you, Sir, are the custodian. I wish that your rules had allowed you to take proper action. In case the existing rules stand in your way, I think that this House would be prepared to give you additional powers to take such steps as help you in maintaining the dignity of this House. If serious allegations have been made against the Government and the Ministers, something should be done to clear the whole position otherwise the prestige and the dignity of this august House stands jeopardized. And Sir, if you are not in a position to help at all, I would request the hon. Chief Minister to arrange the establishment of an impartial tribunal to properly inquire into all the allegatians against the administration as unless and until the administration is beyond all suspicion the people cannot be satisfied with the Government. The impartial tribunal should inquire facts from the public aud should not be guided by the advice of the Government as in that case the accused himself may be discharging the functions of a judge.

Sardar Ajit Singh. I think the members of the tribunal should be "Sanyasis".

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar. The remark of my hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh reminds me of a story in which a child asked his mother as to who would become a Lambardar of the village if the existing Lambardar were to die. The mother replied that ordinarily his son should take his place. 'But who should succeed the son if he were to die'

was the next question. 'Some other close relation of the Lambardar' was the answer. The child again asked as to what should happen in case all the close relations of the Lambardar were also to die and the mother told him that whatever happened there was no scope for him.

Sardar Ajit Singh. I think this story aptly applies to the hon. Member himself at present.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I can very well understand the efforts of my hon. Friend in support of the Government. He should do all these things as he is after all a Parliamentary Secretary of the Government.

I was submitting, Sir, that under these circumstances there can be no improvement in the administration of the State. In the Budget Memorandum, the Finance Secretary to the Government has remarked that as Parliamentary Secretaries were not appointed for a considerable portion of the year, there has been a saving in expenditure. He was referring to the same Parliamentary Secretaries, who regard it as their duty to defend the Government whether the criticism made against it is justified or not. I wish to tell him......

Mr. Speaker : I shall ask the hon. Member to wind up his speech.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I was submitting, Sir, that perhaps the Finance Secretary did not know that the Parliamentary Secretaries were required at the time of Assembly Sessions only. If we ask the Heads of Departments to effect economy in expenditure, they ask if there is any necessity of incurring such a heavy expenditure on such a large number of Parliamentary Secretaries. Does the appointment of these Secretaries not cost a huge sum ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : There has been no increase in expenditure on account of their appointment. Their salaries would be met out of the existing Budget.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : When we ask the Heads of Departments to reduce expenditure under the head travelling allowances, they are justified in asking if the visits of the hon. Ministers to the same place again and again do not cause un-necessary expenditure to the State exchequer. For instance, if on the 5th of a month a Minister visits Amritsar, on 7th he goes to Ambala, on the 12th he is at Hissar and on the

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next day he is at Rohtak. These thingh are of great importance, because the common people always copy those in power. If the Ministers act in a good manner, it is sure to have a salutary effect on the people. Designs of the coat, shoes and other clothes used by the persons in power are imitated by the common people. When I see the hon. Minister for Labour putting on a shawl, I begin to think if we too wil have to adopt the same fashion.

Minister for Labour: The hon. Member has got a good chesterfield.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I was submitting, Sir, that the acts of hon. Ministers have great effect on the administration. If they set a high example by their personal conduct, it is sure to have exemplary effect on the services. I am making a constructive suggestion when I say that if the Ministers change their attitude, it will have a very good effect on others. I was speaking about the manner in which our Ministers make tours and charge travelling allowance for the same Even the purpose of journey is not stated in the travelling allowance bills. If somebody questions about the object of journey, strong objection is taken to that question. This naturally leads to an increase in corruption and in-efficiency. If the Government is anxious to improve the tone of the administration the Ministers should change their own habits. They are always taken as a model by their secretaries and other officers. So long as the Ministers do not change their ways, there is no chance of any improvement in the administration.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: The hon. Member should kindly tell about the speech delivered at 10. p. m.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Shri Ram Sharma a Member of the Panel of Chairmen)

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I can not refer to all these things. They form a long chain

Mr. Chairman, you are aware of all those things. People come to you and narrate their difficulties to you when you are in the plains. You also know that the services always behave just as those in power do. When they know that nobody is going to say anythingh to them, they act as they please. Recently, I paid a visit to Goraya. One

person there was given severe beating by the police. During the course of investigation of some case the Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police gave him a severe beating. When the Superintendent of Police went there this incident was narrated to him and he asked the Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police to desist from acting in that manner. When the Superintendent of Police went away, the A. S. I. gave him a severe beating once again for his having talked about that matter with the Superintendent of Police. A deputation was then taken to the district authorities One of these deputationists, who was an employee of a factory, was got dismissed from service. As ill luck would have it, I happened to visit that village and that person narrated the whole story to me. When the A. S. I. came to know about it, he decided to teach him a lesson. He asked a badmash to give a severe beating with shoes to that man in the public square. While he was being beaten, the A. S. I. arrested and handcuffed both of them together. So, that person was paraded through the streets of that town in hand-cuffs along with the badmash. When this is the state of affairs prevailing in the State, what are the poor people to do. The police does what it pleases and nobody cares to hear the grievances of the poor people. Instead of sitting here or visiting towns and cities, the hon. Ministers should go to the conutryside and assure the people that they are there to understand their difficultties. Today, when the people see that the same persons who can commit forgery and obtain permits in the names of their small children, are always near the Chief Minister, they form a very low impression about the administration. They are losing all faith in the Government. No improvement can be brought about in the administration, till the hon Ministers realise the necessity of raising themsel es. Unless they realise that they should be honest and should act on the princip'es of Gandhiji, whose name they are never tired of repeating in the public, there can be no improvement in the tone of the administration. We cannot bring about any good by merely mentioning the names of eminent leaders. Till we raise ourselves, nothng effective can be accomplished.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The hon. Member who has just finished his speech made certain remarks about my speech which I delivered yesterday.

Mr. Chairman : About your speech or about your person ?

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : He has condemned me wholesale by ayisng that whatever I said was wrong.

Mr. Chairman : The hon Member can rise on a point of personal explanation only in case any personal attack was made on him but, as it is, no attack was made on his person.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar said in his speech that I was a candidate for Ministership. (*Uproar*).

Mr. Chairman : That is not a personal explanation.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order......

Mr. Chairman : What is your point of order ?

Sardar Ajit Singh : I was saying that the hon. Member in his speech said that I ...

Mr. Chairman : This is no point of order. I call upon Shrimati Sita Devi to speak.

Sardar Ajit Singh : I again rise to a point of order.

Mr. Chairman : Order please. If the hon. Member persists in standing up again and again, I shall have to take action against him.

Sardar Ajit Singh : I rise to another point of order. I want to know whether a Member of this House against whom a personal attack has been made has a right to make a personal explanation ?

Mr. Chairman : If a personal attack has been made, the hon. Member has certainly got a right to defend himself by making a personal explanation. But in this case, as I have already ruled, no personal attack was made and a personal explanation is uncalled for.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, Sir.

Mr. Chairman : I want to know if the hon. Member has stood up on the same point which I have disposed of or on any other matter ?

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : I want to know from you, Sir...

Mr. Chairman : No question can be asked from the Chair.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : On a point of order. I wish to submit, Sir, that when an hon. Member wants to say something, you

should at least let him have his say before you order him to resume his seat.

Mr. Chairman : That is no point of order.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : I again rise to a point of order and repeat what I have said before that hon. Members of this House should at least be given a right to have their say.

Mr. Chairman : Order, order. If any hon. Member wants to say something on a point of order, he should state his point briefly. It does not mean that he has a right to say whatever he likes by standing up and saying 'On a point of order'.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : On a point order.....

Mr. Chairman : Order, order. I shall be obliged to take some action if the hon. Lady Member persists in rising up over and over again.

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and there was a loud applause in the House)

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : 'Bahut be abru ho kar tere kuche se ham nikley' ! *(Laughter)*.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal ; Sir, this House has many learned and wise men. During your absence from the Chamber an hon. Member stood up on a point of order but he was not allowed even to finish his sentence when he was ordered by the Chairman to resume his seat.

Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Sir. *(Laughter)* Is any Parliamentary Secretary empowered to pass derogatory remarks against the person who was occupying the Chair.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : He must withdraw those words.

Shri Dev Raj Sethi : I withdraw, Sir.

Sardar Ajit Singh : While you were away from this House, Sir, I stood up on a point of personal explanation. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar made a personal attack on me but the Chairman ruled that I had no right to make any personal explanation.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot go into any matter which has been decided by the Chairman. *(Hear, hear)*.

Sardar Ajit Singh : I was saying, Sir......

Mr. Speaker: Order please. Whatever has been decided must be taken as correct and final and I cannot allow it to be raised again.

(*Chief Minister rose to speak*)

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Sir. Before you occupied the Chair, the Chairman had called my name for speaking, but now you have asked the hon. Chief Minister to speak.

Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, before you came to the Chair, I, as Chairman, called upon Shrimati Sita Devi to speak. I think she should be given a chance.

Mr. Speaker : Well, I will not challange what Pandit Shri Ram Sharma has said. If he has already called upon Shrimati Sita Devi, I will give five minutes to her.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly repersenting Lahore city General, Women, urban) (*Hindi*): Sir, first of all I wish to thank you for kindly giving me time to express my views. Over ten minutes have been wasted by raising points of order and interruptions etc. Consequently only five minutes have been left to me to state my views on General Administration. So I will not give as many facts and figures as I wanted to, but will confine myself to stating only important and broad points for the consideration of the hon. Members. The first thing to note is that this year the expenditure on General Administration is Rs. 1,68,45,100 as compared with the figure of 1,61,76,600 for the last year. This shows an increase in expenditure under demand No. 10. If by increase in expenditure there had been a corresponding improvement in the general administration of the State no body would have minded it. But what we find is that since partition the expenditure on this item has been steadily on the increase while no improvement is noticeable. My hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has suggested that a Committee should be appointed to take stock of the whole position. My view is that the Committees serve no useful purpose. We have seen that such Committees as Resources and Retrenchment Committee, Public Accounts Committee and Estimates Committee were constituted, they published their reports and made recommendations to the Government. But whenever a question is asked as to what has become of their reports, the answer of the Government is always that the matter is under consideration. As a matter of fact no steps are taken to implement the recommendations

of the Committees. The Government goes on spending on such departments which are not profitable. No attention is paid towards the departments which yield income, such as Forest Department. The Government figures show that income from the Forest Department amounts to Rs. 55,35,100 and the expenditure is Rs. 48,73,300. This gives us a surplus of Rs. 6,61,800 I do not wish to go into details. What I mean to point out is that the Government should pay more attention towards such departments. In Himachal Pradesh also the forests are profitable just as they are in other States of India. More attention should be paid towards such departments and unprofitable expenditure on General Administration should be reduced as much as possible This our Government is not doing at present. What we find is that a sum of Rs 2,57,600 has been provided for a road from Loharu to Bhiwani and another sum of Rs. one lakh from Ambala to Hissar under Civil Works, while on the other side there are some roads, for example, Shahzadpore, Naraingarh and Kala Amb road where Bajri has been lying for a long time and no steps are taken to improve them. My submission is that although every thing is shown on paper very little is done in practice. At present the condition of our general administration is not satisfactory. Sir, the volumes of the budget, which it is not possible for an M.L.A. to carry on account of their heavy weight, are, of course, bulky. Their weight is just like the weight of the services on the weak shoulders of our State. As a matter of fact, I found it difficult to carry the budget volumes without the help of a servant. In spite of bulk of these books, what we find is that there is no law and order in the State. I don't wish to speak on the language controversy here. But I do want to point out that civil liberty especially in Jullundur district is practically non-existent. In the census the people could not freely exercise their right of filling in the language column.

Mr. Speaker: But the hon. Lady Member has just remarked that she did not wish to speak on the language controversy at this stage ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, I only want to emphasize the non-existence of civil liberties and the condition of law and order in Jullundur during and after the census operations. The Gnenral Secretary of the Congress Mr. Ravi Shankar has stated that even now there is tension and disorder in the rural areas. There are complaints against a Thanedar at Phillaur. I don't wish to say anything more in this respect because there is a case against him. The matter is

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

sub-judice. But I can say that it has been alleged that he favours certain persons at the expense of certain others No complaints are entertained by him. Under such circumstances how can law and order be maintained ? The hon Members have urged that strong action should be taken so that law and order may be restored. But the hon. chief Minister says that there is no such law under which action may be taken in this matter. My submission is that there are such laws, but the only thing required is that they should be strictly enforced It is only by stern action that the conditions in the State can be restored to normal.

Mr. Speaker : This is repetition. It has already been said by another hon. Member.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Sir, I have read in an English newspaper that the Chief Minister has shown his helplessness in this matter. When the Government has power and it is spending so much on General Administration, it does not behove the man in the saddle to simply express helplessness. My opinion is that the administration is not functioning efficiently. I wish to give an example of this. Even a small piece of work cannot be done straightway. It has to pass through so many channels-the Director, the Deputy Director and so on. Some time back Mr. Chattarvedi who came for inspecting the forests wrote in his report th t freedom is not given to the Heads of the Departments. That is why there is inefficiency. Sir, I have very little time at my disposal.

Mr. Speaker : You have none.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Then, Sir, I have carefully perused the Budget speech of the hon. Chief Minister but I have not found anything remarkable in it. Of course, I have come across this fact that Dr. Sahib has begun to feel that now a great awakening has come over the people and they cannot be kept in the dark any longer about the true state of affairs of the administration. This Government has tried to tread on the foot-prints of its predecessor, the British, in keeping the people steeped in ignorance. The hon. Chief Minister has been feeling very complacent and has been under the impression that under his regime, the people were happy and very well off. But he has admitted that now the fact is otherwise. I would, therefore, request him to feel the pulse of the people and try to redress their

manifold grievances. I may tell him that no amount of waxing eloquence for hours and thumping of tables by his supporters, will be able to improve the hard lot of the people. Unless he makes genuine efforts to bring about contentment among the people on the one hand and adopts effective measures to curb corruption and inefficiency in the administratoin, he will not be able to carry on his Government for long.

Chief Minister (The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) *(Hindi)* : Sir, before I proceed with my reply to the objections raised by my hon Friends, I would like to recall what I suggested during the genera discussion of the Budget. I said that there used to be a convention in this House to the effect ... ...

Mr. Speaker : I would expect those hon. Members who had spoken against the Government and criticised it vehemently, to be in their seats. It would be in their interest to be present and hear the reply of the hon. Chief Minister.

Chief Minister : Sir, I was submitting that during the general discussion on the Budget, I had appealed to the House to conform to the convention that no allegations or libels should be made by an hon. Member against any person or an officer, who had no access to this House to defend himself. I am fully aware of the fact that the hon. Members are privileged persons and that no action can be taken against them for any statement they make on the floor of the House. But despite this privilege, it is expected of them that they would refrain from making any libellous or defamatory statements against anybody on the floor of this House- I had hoped that my appeal would receive a favourable response from the hon. Members. But I am constrained to remark that yesterday an hon. Member did not observe this convention He named an officer and alleged that he had accepted a large amount of money as illegal gratification and that a part the payment was made to him by a cheque through one of his close relations. Sir, my submission is that if the hon. Member feels that what he has stated is correct, then he should have the courage to repeat the same thing outside this House, so that we may be able to call upon that officer to explain and defend himself.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Sir I want to know whether it is fair or proper on the part of an hon. Minister to be emphatic about a certain matter on the basis of mere heresay ? The hon. Chief Minister was absent from the House yesterday at that time.

[Sardar Bachan Singh]
He has neither heard anything himself nor has he any report about this matter in his possession.

Mehta Ranbir Snigh : I said nothing of the kind. I challange the hon. Chief Minister.

Chief Minister : Well, Sir, he named the officer who is alleged to have been offered a bribe and it was said that the officer who is a Head of the Department had accepted it. I submit that it is most uncharitable on the part of the hon. Member to libel an officer under the protection af the House. He should have the boldness to say such a thing outside this House to afford an opportunity to that officer to defend himself, because whatever is spoken on the floor of this House, has its repercussions on the administration as well as on the public. But on the other hand, if a defamatory statement made by a certain person against another, is proved to be baseless, then the public ceases to have any faith in future in the utterances of that person.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir. I submit that the statement of the hon. Chief Minister is incorrect. I never made any allegation against any officer and for that I would refer you to the report of my speech, You will find. . . . . . .

Mr. Speaker : Order, order.

Chief Minister : If my hon. Friend feels that he did not say this, even then he should know that this House is not the proper place to make allegations of bribery against any officer, because we have no evidence or material in our possession on the basis of which we could call for the explanation of that officer. I may, therefore, tell the House that if the hon. Members want to effect an improvement in the administration or wish certain persons to leave the administration, they should hurl accusations against officers either outside this House or they should communicate their allegations against him, to me for enquiry. Now my hon. Friend says that he neither named that officer nor did he make any allegations against him. But he did say that a printer offered a cheque to that officer through one of his relations. Even this statement is sufficient to create doubts in the minds of the people and there will be unncessary surmises to locate that officer. This is the height of injustice that could be perpetrated on that officer. I hope the hon. Member would realise his responsibility and if he feels himself on a strong ground, then he should have the courage to repeat the allegation outside the House.

Now I come to the next point which was raised by my hon. Friend and old colleague Shri Bhim Sen Sachar. He said that the request for allotment of the land to the Maternity Hospital was refused by the then Revenue Minister Sardar Joginder Singh Mann and that I had approached him to reconsider the matter. This is incorrect and if my hon. Friend had been in his seat, I would have told him that I am prepared to take up his challange in this connection. I may tell the House that the lease of land in question was not refused totally by Sardar Joginder Singh Mann. My hon. Friend has probably confused it with that land which is called the police lines ground and is situated near the Ludhiana railway station. The grounds on which the then Revenue Minister could not persuade himself to permit the lease of this land, was that it was very valuable as it was eminently suited for building a market.

At that time I had given in writing that an American Missionary Hospital, anxious to do some service to humanity, be given some land on lease, if available. But the land was not given to it on lease by the Government. Mr. Speaker, a perusal of the file and my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar's remarks as the then Premier and his direction to me as Finance Minister will clearly show that the land which was refused by the Sachar Government was the land near the police lines. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to have the matter examined by any one and if I am found to be wrong I am prepared to accept any punishment. When the land near the police lines was refused during the Sachar regime, I was asked by the then Premier to look into the needs of the Maternity Hospital. Dr. Kapur then wrote another letter in which he thanked my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar for the support which he had always given him. He had also expressed his thanks for the support Shri Sachar had given him in the United Punjab when he was working as the Finance Minister. It is abundantly clear from this that Shri Sachar wanted to help Dr. Kapur in securing land for the Maternity Hospital. I submit that the maternity hospital issue is not the main reason for starting this agitation, the motive underlying the agitation is something else.

It has been complained that the land of the Ramlila grounds has been utilized for the building of the hospital. I may assure my hon. Friends there is sufficient land for Ramlila purposes over there. It has also been complained that the people used to hold fairs on these grounds and that these were also used for recreation purposes. I would like to submit, Sir, that recently when our Prime Minister had

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to visit Ludhiana, it took about one week to clean these grounds. The credit for this goes to the sweepers who on hearing about the intending visit of the Prime Minister to their town did not like the dirt and refuse to remain there and thus cleaned the grounds by working hard for one week. What I wish to point out is that the main reason for starting the agitation is not that why more land has been given to the Maternity Hospital. Hospital issue is not the main reason of the agitation, but these issues are being raised simply because my hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar is adopting Ludhiana as his constituency for contesting the elections to the State Legislature. (interruptions).

Mr. Speaker : Hon. Member has a right of personal explanatian.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I want to know Sir, has the Leader of the House privilege to cast reflections

Chief Minister : You will find me the last person who will impute motives. I have not said a word against any one.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Members who have expressed their views about certain actions of the Government should be present in their seats.

Chief Minister : Further, it has been said that charges of corruption made against the hon Ministers are not enquired into and that no action is taken against them. My hon Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar who has made this complaint knows it full well, as he has himself worked as the Premier of this State that such questions had also arisen during the tenure of his office. He also knows how he went to the Congress Parliamentary Board and made complaints to it and what reply he got from there. It is really a pity that instead of finding fault in himself he does not hesitate to find fault in others. I do feel, Sir, that I do not act like my hon. Friend who did not think it proper to take any action against the police officers who misbehaved with his colleagues. So far as I am concerned, I think it to be my bounden duty to raise the prestige of both the hon. Ministers and the hon. Members in the eyes of the people and the officers of the Government. An hon. Minister or an hon. Member or for the matter of that any person can maintain his prestige only when he works honestly and in a selfless manner. If he fails to work honestly the result would be that he would not command respect in the eyes of the people. If the hon. Ministers does not work honestly

he will not only be instrumental in bringing disrepute and disgrace to the Government but also to the party of which he is a member. It is very easy to make allegations but very difficult to substantiate them. (interruptions). I have sufficient material with me to show that some of my hon. Friends have acted in such a way that they can be prosecuted under Section 182 I. P. C. I know how bills are prepared twice for one and the same purpose and submitted to the Government for its approval. Perhaps they lost sight of the fact that Assembly office could locate such irregularities in no time as they are in possession of all the relevant particulars.

Further I would like to submit that I have never said that there are no defects in our day to day administration. I have never said that we do not commit any errors. After all we too are human beings. As a matter of fact everybody in this world has at least some sort of defect in him. Perhaps my hon. Friends remember that a few days ago I read out to them the speech of the President of Red China. Here I would like to repeat this point with a view to refreshing their memory that the Government of China have fixed a dead line by which they think they would be able to achieve what they are very much after in the interests of their State. I do not think there is anybody or any organization in this world which is immune from any defect. But there is a remedy to remove any defect howsoever glaring it may be. And the desire to remove defects in our working is not lacking in us. If my hon. Friends find any defects in the day-to-day administration of the Government, then I may tell them that these defects cannot be removed in the way they think, or in other words these defects cannot be removed by advancing scathing criticism against the Government. However, I would like to bring this point home to them that the Father of our Nation has already taught us how best the defects can be removed.

Now about the services On the one hand praises an encomiums have been showered on the officers and on the other it has been stated that officers do not obey the instructions of the hon. Ministers. As a matter of fact the officers know for themselves what policy they have to carry out. So long as the officers carry out the policy of a Minister efficiently and honestly it is all right. In case there is some difference of opinion then the officer who has sufficient experience of general administration has to make the Minister understand his point of view and then act accordingly. If a Minister happens to change his policy

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every minute then the officers are naturally put to a lot of inconveniences. As a matter of fact certain powers have been delegated to the officers and they are free to act as they desire and they can even refuse the suggestion made or advice given by a Minister in the interest of the efficient administration of the Government. Such officers are to be found in the Government of India and in our State too. Do my hon. Friends want that the officers, who during the British regime arrested us and inflicted severe punishments on us, should receive the same treatment at our hands simply because they were strictly following the instructions of the Government? Do they want that we should terminate the services of those officers who are now working with us and who during the British regime did not spare any pains to strictly carry out the policy of the then Government? During the British regime they were duty bound to carry out the instructions of the then Government and now it is also their bounden duty to work honestly and efficiently under the changed conditions and thus follow the policy of the Government both in words and deeds. It has been stated that the hon. Ministers interefere with the services. I for one have not been able to understand what the hon Members mean by saying that the Ministers interfere with the services. Perhaps my hon. Friends are not aware of the fact that as Chief Minister I am in-charge of all the departments. Under the provisions of the New Constitution and also under the Rules of Business, besides the routine papers, other necessary papers of all the departments which before the Partition used to be sent to His Excellency the Governor have now to be passed on to me. Under the circumstances, I know the working of all the departments. Moreover, my hon. Friends should not lose sight of the fact that as the Finance Minister too I have to deal with all the departments and I get sufficient opportunities to study their working. At the time of the preparation of the Budget too, I get ample time to see how these departments carry on their work. Last but not the least I examine the working of all the departments when they submit various schemes to the Finance Department for concurrence etc. Under the circumstances if an hon Minister impresses upon the officers of his department to work efficeintly and honestly, then can it be said that he causes interference with the day-to-day administration of the Government? On the other hand if an hon. Member approaches the Deputy Commissioner and asks him to withdraw some case in which he is interested, he is not within his rights to do such things. Instead of

approaching him direct he is required to bring this matter to the notice of the Government and then approach him through proper channel. If an hon. Member approaches a Deputy Commissioner without the knowledge of the Government, and asks him to do a certain thing for him, then does it not tantamount to undue interference with the services of the State? Again, if my hon. Friend, who make such scathing criticism against the Government, themselves approach the Deputy Commissioners and other high officials and make them go out of their way to do certain things for them, then can't it be said that they cause undue interference with the day-to-day administration of the Government?

If anybody wants to intimidate any officer by criticizing him either in the press or on the public platform then it becomes our duty to give him due protection. So in our attempt to shield the officer from wrong accusations we are criticized for making interference in the administration. Whenever any hon. Member of this House makes a complaint before us against any Deputy Commissioner and if in obedience to his wishes and to do our duty we make necessary enquiries then a charge is levelled against us for making undue interference with the services. There is no occasion for me to ask a Deputy Commissioner to do a thing for me because the officers know what policy they have to execute. I give the Deputy Commissioners full opportunity to give their free and frank opinion about any policy which the Government may like to enforce in the State. If after full discussion with them I do not agree with them then I have a right to insist upon them to act according to my wishes. People should, therefore, judge us by our motives with which we carry out our policy. I may point out that certain powers are delegated to the officers and they are left free to act as they desire and can even refuse the suggestion made or advice given by the Ministers. But in matters where powers have not been delegated the Ministers are free to act as they like. Such an objection of making interference coming from a person who has been himself an administrator I should say is frivolous. We have been invariably following the practice of getting concurrence of the Finance Department in all matters involving financial implications. All proposals submitted by the heads of departments are subjected to closest scrutiny by the Finance Department. If the head of the Forest Department does not give his opinion on any proposal merely because the Minister incharge does not like it, then I think he is failing in his duty. When any proposal originates from me and the Finance Department does not give its concurrence then I have to accept the advice given by the Finance

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Secretary which I can otherwise easily ignore being the head of that department. If I do not act like this the work of the administration cannot run smoothly. Perhaps the experience of my hon. Friend might be different because in his time many wrong decisions were taken without consulting the Finance Department. It has been our guiding principle to act in accordance with the advice given by our legal authorities and we are not accustomed to do anything unless we consult our Advocate General or the Legal Remembrancer. If my hon. Friend who has made the objection holds a different view then I cannot help ignoring such an objection.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Please ignore such Members.

Chief Minister : Then, Sir, an objection has been raised that short notice questions have not been admitted. He would not have raised the objection if he had studied the rules under which a question can be admitted as short notice question. Such questions are only admitted when certain emergency has arisen. If the hon. Members do not exercise their right of sending questions by giving 15 days' clear notice to get its reply then those questions cannot be treated as short notice questions. If we consider that the subject matter of the question is not so urgent then we do not agree to that question being treated as a short notice question Besides this, the information asked for in the question is not sometimes easily available. Supposing if information is required by the hon. Member about those persons who were recruitetd in Government service from 1947 to 1950 with their grades of pay then a reply to such a question would cover about 40 pages. In such cases it is very difficult to collect information within a short time We some time collect information by telegrams and telephone and if the reply is unduly lengthy then it is very difficult to answer such questions within short time. We have to adhere to parliamentary procedure in such cases.

Sardar Swaran Singh : You should be liberal in such matters

Chief Minister : Then, Sir, it has been remarked that parliamentary discipline is not satisfactory It has been suggested by my hon. Friend that if any Member defies discipline he should be severely dealt with. The suggestion has come from my esteemed Friend who has been himself not able to keep discipline. I have had the privilege to work with him and so long as the Assembly is not

dissolved we will continue to work. It does not bef ve my hon, Friend to make such a complaint when he himself breaks the discipline. If he really feels that there should be discipline in the party he should not do anything which may impair the discipline of the party.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether the hon. Chief-Minister is addressing the Congress Assembly Party.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Chief Minister had said that he was discussing Congress members.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is any party question before the House.

Mr. Speaker : This is not a party question. I have already said so.

Shir Bhim Sen Sachar : It would be befter if the hon. Chief Minister would kindly throw some light on the by-election of Una constituency.

Chief Minister : I would have certainly done so if my hon. Friend had mentioned it in his speech. But I can say that as a member of the Congress I have not done anything wrong. So far as this election is concerned I am not one of those who will speak one thing on the platform and do another outside which brings discredit to the party.

I was saying, Sir, that if the party running the Government is itself not disciplined there is every possibility of the parliamentary decorum and convention being violated and the dignity and prestige of this august House being lowered. As I am anxious about the dignity of this House I expect every hon. Member to conduct himself in a disciplined manner. It is not a party question nor am I discussing anything irrelevant. I am merely replying to the objections raised by other hon. Members. It has been said that we should now be prepared to face the public for their verdict on our doings. I submit, Sir, that on behalf of the party which has been running the Government all these years we hold ourselves responsible for whatever has been done or not done during this period. I don't claim that we have been able to do everything that ought to have been done or that whatever we have done has been done in a perfect manner. No human being can claim perfection in his work which is an attribute of God alone. Short-comings and defects to some extent or the other, attend every human endeavour

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and our work too has not been free from them but we don't deny our responsibility for every act of commission or ommission done by the Government during the last three and a half years including the period in which I was not the Chief Minister. It is my conviction, Sir, that this Government has not don anything for which the party in power may have to hang down its head in the face of the public.

The hon. Lady Member has made the objection as to why so many allowances such as hill compensatory allowance, conveyance allowance etc., have been sanctioned for high officers drawing Rs. 3,500 per mensem. Even when she was saying this, I had verified from her that she was referring to high officers. Sir I have already made a statement on the floor of this House that with the exception of Superintendents and P. As no gazetted officer under this Government is in receipt of compensatory allowance. I might also inform the hon. Lady Member that even the dearness allowance is not admissible beyond a certain limit.

As regards the criticism levelled at the demand for Education Department, I have to repeat what has been said on the floor of the House many a time that financial position of the local bodies is not satisfactory and grants have to be made to them in order that they may be able to give adequate dearness allowance to the low-paid teachers in their employ. Does the hon. Member who has raised this objection desire that dearness allowance should not be given to any employee ? As you know, Sir, this allowance is being given as a relief to the employees in this time of dearness in the prices of all commodities of everyday use As the prices will come down, this allowance will also be reduced and will ultimately be abolished when the Government feels that they have come down to a reasonable level. If the grades are raised in view of the prevailing dearness, then when the prices come down it would be very difficult to lower them. So it has been considered advisable not to raise the grades but to continue to give dearness allowance as a relief measure so long as the prices do not come to normalcy.

Sir, it is with pain and sorrow that I have to refer to two most regrettable incidents that have occurred in our State only recently.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member should not go into the merits of the case.

Chief Minister : I am merely giving, facts and not going into merits. I was going to say, Sir, that those incidents are such as to make our heads hang down in shame. As soon as I came to know of these incidents, the first thing I did was to instruct the Deputy Commissioner of the district on telephone to suspend the police officials concerned. In one case the Superintendent of Police after satisfying himself that a prima facie case existed arrested the accused after two days of the occurence and as the offence is non-bailable they are still behind the bars. Similar action was taken in the other case also. It is really deplorable, Sir, that those who are the upholders of law and to whose care is entrusted the protection of the people should themselves be charged with the commission of a beastly and barbarous act. While I condemn such things in the strongest words possible I don't understand the logic of the argument that since such ugly things have happened the Government be held responsible for them. Those who commit crimes, whether they are members of the public or Government officials, are after all our own brethren-organs of our own society-products of this very mental and moral atmosphere in which we are living and for creating which we as a nation are responsible. Such ugly things are a reflection of our national weakness which we have not been able to overcome in spite of and even after becoming an independent nation. As such, it is the sacred duty of everyone of us to strive to create a moral atmosphere in which such things are not allowed to happen by the pressure of the society itself. If on coming to know of these incidents we had not taken any action, the blame would justly lie at our door.

Now, Sir. I would like to say a few words with regard to the objection that no money has been provided for Drugs Analysis Laboratory in spite of the fact that I am also a medical man and am expected to be conscious of its necessity.

I do feel, Sir, that such a laboratory should exist in this State but this undertaking calls for a heavy initial investment. Then there is the question of securing the services of qualified analysts I am afraid at the salaries that we can offer, persons with requisite qualification would not be forthcoming. Then in the present condition of the finances of our State it is not possible for us to meet even the recurring expenditure of such a laboratory, not to speak of the initial expenditure that would have to be incurred to provide even the minimum equipment. Thus, Sir, 'the pacuity of funds' is not a mere excuse. It is a fact that we cannot afford to spend on such an undertaking.

[Chief Minister]

I have not been able to collect papers relating to the bund to which Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa has referred. My hon. Friend will recall that we had accepted the proposal when the last floods came last year though the matter had to be referred to the Departments concerned for their suggestions in the matter of flood control. Even when ordinary channels had to be constructed and much help was given by the people, the work entailed considerable expenditure. The construction of bunds requires lakhs of rupees and even though it is the duty of the District Boards to construct them, we have taken over the responsibility, keeping the interest of the people in view and knowing that the Boards have no funds to undertake this work and if it is not done the general public will suffer.

The Government had decided to undertake this work but the fact should not be overlooked that these schemes require so many things. After all staff is required and proposals have to be put up for sanction. Now that the House will give its approval for expenditure our plans will be immediately put through as we are earnest about finishing this work before the rains set in. But I may tell the hon. Members that it is not possible for us to create such Bunds as divert the floods in the direction of Pakistan because in such a case we may be guilty of an unfriendly act. We have no desire to offend Pakistan that way. Hon. Members will recall that in the canal water dispute the Pakistan Government did not pay any heed to our communications for settlement of terms and when they sent their engineers to settle this case, they did not ratify the decisions which were arrived at by them. But we give them the canal water as we were ordered by the Prime Minister of India to do so. So far as the Bund of Narot Jaimal Singh is concerned I am to say that about two years ago we got the necessary machinery from the Defence Department but it could not be used there The Defence Department also did not agree to give its own men for working this machinery and asked us to work it with our own men. We took this machinery as also some more machinery from other sources and have utilized it at the headworks of Madhopur.

Sir, my hon. Friend Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa with whom I have had the privilege of working for some time has been good enough to remark that this Government is not capable of taking decisions with finality. He has not given any definite instance, as

he obviously could not give, because he must have noticed something when he was under the oath of secrecy. But in case he tells me anything privately I shall be in a position to take action and satisfy him. It is just possible that in some particular case my hon. Friend may be right as the abnormal times have not disappeared as yet and we may have changed some decision because of certain facts of a case. But he is far from correct if he insists that we suffer from his draw-back in the generality of cases. The House after all knows that we come here with definite proposal in the form of the Budget and legislation.

I may also deal with the objection relating to the extraordinary promotion of some officials in the temporary departments. It will be realized that the grades of the Government officers are fixed on the basis of the work and the responsibility which is required of them. And then it is not possible for us to vary the grades so easily when they have been once fixed. Some Committees have to be appointed to go into the whole question and recommend variations. These things cannot be effected in the twinkling of an eye. It will be recalled that a Committee was set up in the year 1944 to revise the grades of the Government servants and that Committee submitted its report in 1946. Even that Committee could not do full justice to the question of revision of grades and the question is still hanging fire in certain cases. The question of revising grades is not so easy as some of my hon. Friends think. Nobody can afford to vary or revise these grades arbitrarily and without valid basis as he is sure to be dubbed inefficient and suffering from want of finality in decisions. However, I assure my hon. Friends that so far as future is concerned new grades will be fixed after due consideration. But here again one thing should not be forgotten that while making new appointments preference has to be given to people who have experience in Government service. Hon. Members themselves have so many times expressed a feeling that in case of appointments in a particular office preference should be given to those who are already working there. It is this very principle which is to be applied while making recruitment to various posts and nobody should be offended by it if a Government servant is appointed to some big post because of his previous experience.

Then Sir, it has been said that we interfere not only with the work of the Public Service Commission but even with the appointment the Public Service Commissioners. So we have been accused of

[Chief Minister]

nepotism in the matter of appointment of Members of the Commission. But it is a false accusation and I challenge anybody to prove it. (Shri Prabodh Chandra. I accept the challenge.) Sir, it is not possible for us to interfere with the work of the Commission. If and when anything is taken out of the purview of the Public Service Commission we are required to bring that fact to the notice of this House under the Constitution. We have also to apprise the House when we are not able to act on the recommendations of the Commission. It has been remarked that we appointed somebody as a member of the Commission as he happened to be a brother of an hon. Member of this House. It is an absolutely wrong allegation. The person who is in question was a Member of the Public Service Commission even in the United Punjab when the Congress and the Unionist coalition ministry was in power in 1946. We have not shown him any special favour if we have appointed him a Member of our Commission. I don't think that the fact of his being a brother of a Member of this House should stand in him in a bad stead.

Then, Sir, there might be some truth in the complaint that sometimes delay is caused in the disposal of cases. There are some matters which take considerable time, but there are others which are disposed of in a very short period. When Shri Bhim Sen Sachar was the Premier of this State, a Reorganisation Committee was set up for suggesting means for the quick disposal of work. We have made an experiment, on the basis of the recommendations of that Committee, in several departments Sometimes delay was caused on account of the fact that a case had to go from one department to another. Now a Co-ordination Committee has been set up. When any important case comes before the Finance Department, I send for the Finance Secretary and the Secretary of the Department from which that proposal comes, and decide the matter on the spot after personal discussion. I am always anxious that the Government business should be disposed of as speedily as possible. About myself I can say that I do a great deal of work. Nobody can contradict me when I say that I am known as a file worm. I devote most of my time in going through files.

Then, Sir, certain things were said about the manner of making appointments. In this connection, I wish to inform the House that all appointments carrying a salary of more than Rs. 150/- per mensem,

are made through the Public Service Commission. In the case of other appointments a Committee is constituted, with the Head of the Department, for which the recruitment has to be made, as a member of that Committee. It was said sometime back that the appointments for jobs carrying a salary of more than Rs. 50 per mensem should be made through the Public Service Commission. The present Public Service Commission has already got heavy work to do. They told me that they could not undertake to do this additional work. For that work another Public Service Commission would have to be appointed and it would involve extra expenditure. It is wrong to say that the Ministers make appointments according to their sweet will. The names of the persons selected by the Public Service Commission are sent to the Government for its approval. As regards nomination to the Provincial Civil Service, each Minister has the power to nominate one person. In this way I recommend the name of the person whom I consider suitable. When the recommendations of all the departments are received, I have to see ,how the official recommended by me compares with others in respect of qualifications etc.,. I might add that my nominee has not been selected for the P.C.S. so far, though it is I who have to make the final selection. There is a general complaint against me that I do not favour my friends. They complain that I accommodate my foes and not my friends. It is regarded by them as my weakness but I think that if I do something for my foe, he would not be in a position to say that I oblige my friends. If I do things for my friends, I can be charged of favouritism. When this is the general complaint against me, it is not right to say that nepotism and favouritsm are rempant. There are very few persons belonging to my family in this State. People of my brotherhood have not entered service so far. Harijans do not regard me as belonging to them, the rural minded people consider me to be an urbanite and the urban minded people do not regard me as being one of them. In the same way the Hindus say that I have sold myself in the hands of Sikhs and the latter say that I do not belong to their community. I, however, regard myself as a servant of all. It is my duty to serve the rural people as well as urban, and also the Hindus, Sikhs and Harijans. I regard Hindus and Sikhs as one. This is a secular State. When we thought that a member of the District Board, Gurgaon, had migrated to Pakistan, his seat was declared vacant and another person nominated to it, but as soon as it was brought to our notice that he

[Chief Minister]

had not migrated, an additional seat was created for him and he was nominated to it.

It was said that this Government did not command respect and prestige among the public. Only those persons, who want to create chaos and anarchy, say such things A Government can exist only so long as its laws are obeyed by the people. When the people obey these laws it can not be said that the Government lacks prestige and respect. Some people resort to Durgaraha in the name of Satyagraha. It does not lie in their mouths to say that this Government does not command the respect of the people.

Then, Sir, reference was made to a number of individual cases. I am sorry that I can not explain the position of the Government with respect to all these If, however, regular questions are asked with respect to each case, I shall be able to collect all the particulars and place the facts before the House.

It was said that we got huge sums in the form of Conveyance Allowance. In this connection, I wish to give the relevant figures with respect to other States. In this State we were entitled under the law to get Rs. 300 p. m. but of our own accord we reduced it to Rs. 250 p m. In Bihar, free cars are provided to the Ministers at Government expense. In C. P. and Berar Rs. 200 per mensem is paid in addition to a free Government car. In Madras free cars are provided at Government expense and the cost of insurance, registration and petrol is also borne by the Government.

The conveyance allowance allowed to Ministers in various States is as follows: Bombay: Rs 200, Orissa: Rs. 250 U. P. free conveyance; the cars supplied at State expense are maintained by the Government including the pay of chauffeurs and the cost of petrol and oil i. e., the consumption of petrol does not exceed 75 gallons a month. West Bengal: 250 rupees, provided that if a State car is placed at the disposal of an hon. Minister for any period exceeding one month, he will not draw the allowance for that period.

Now, Sir, I would place bef re the House the rates of Daily Allowance allowed to Ministers in the various States. In Punjab, the Daily Allowance is Rs. 15. Bihar: Rs. 15 within the Province and not exceeding Rs. 25 outside the Province. C. P. and Berar: Rs 9 wit in the Province and Rs 16 outside the Province. Madras:

Rs. 20 within the Province and Rs. 25 outside the Province. Bombay; Rs. 10 except for Bombay, Poona and Mahabaleshwar where the rate is Rs. 13/5. For halts outside the Province the rate is Rs. 15/-. Orissa: Rs. 10 within the Province and Rs. 15 outside the Province. Assam: Rs. 10/8/- within the Province and for halts outside the Province 50 per cent increase except for Calcutta, Simla and Delhi where the rate is double. U. P: Actual out of the pocket expenses to the extent of Rs. 10 and upto Rs. 25 outside the Province. West Bengal: Rs. 15 within the Province and Rs. 25 outside the Province.

Then it was said that a Patwari has been retained in service up to the age of 70 years. I may submit that extension to Government servants is granted up to the age of sixty. But after that age, extension is granted from year to year. If a Government servant is fit to carry on his work, there is no reason why he should not be given extension. If any new person is not available for a job, it is not necessary that the present incumbent should be retired at the age of 55 years. Besides there is the question of the displaced persons. Some of them lost their all in Pakistan and now they have not been able to make even their clothes in the last two three years. Yet, as a matter of general policy, they have been retiring at the age of 55 years. A number of other things have also been said on the floor of the House. But it is physically impossible to answer all of them. So last of all, I want to draw the attention of the House, through you, Sir, to the situation that is prevailing now in the villages of some districts in the State. I regret that the hon. Member who has referred to it, is not in his seat now. The Government servants tried to set the things right to the extent to which it could be expected of them to do so. It has been said that Shri Kant toured the villages and there he met only one class of people. I am not aware of this thing But I had a talk with him. He told me that he not only looked into the condition of one side of people but he also asked the other side to give better treatment to the poor people I am not one of those who would exhort the people to return any particular language as their mother tongue. The people who tried to manipulate the language statistics in this way, will not be able to achieve any useful purpose. The Government of India has decided that, so far as Punjab is concerned, language statistics, will not be tabulated, because they are wrong. This class war that has now been created will not only harm the interests of one class but of both the classes. It is, therefore, necessary that, after ending

[Chief Minister]

this class war, we should engage ourselves in the task of reconstruction of our country. No doubt, there are difficulties in our way; but if we make a united effort, we can certainly set the things right. We thought that we, the Members of the Assembly would make up our minds to restore normal conditions by personally working in the troubled districts for ten or fifteen days.......

Sardar Kabul Singh : What can we do if the Ministers are fanning the fire.

Chief Minister : I would like to submit that, instead of indulging ourselves in personal bickerings and instead of taking a step which might get us more votes in the coming elections, it should be our duty not only as Members of this House but also as Punjabis to make every sacrifice that might be necessary to restore normal conditions in the State. I, therefore, appeal to the hon. Members of this House and the public outside, through you, Sir, that they should help themselves in this task of their own. I think, unless we set the present situation right we cannot stabilize the already shattered economy of the villages. After the partition, the majority of the village artisans migrated to the other side and consequently a void was created in our village economy. This void has not yet been completely filled. The displaced persons have not yet been able to stand on their legs. The burden of taccavi loans is yet heavy on them If the present deplorable situation continues, I am afraid we shall have difficulties in the matter of harvesting of crops and thus the interests of not only one class but of the whole Province will come to harm. It is, therefore, necessary that we should leave these differences for the time being ; they can be resolved later on. We should now try to solve this difficult problem as soon as possible.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of personal explanation, Sir. During my speech which I made yesterday I referred to a signed letter which made allegations against the Director of Public Instruction. I have got the official report with me. This is what I said :

> Then, Sir, I would draw your attention to another important matter. I am in possession of a signed document and I am prepared to lay it on the table of the House. It contains certain glaring allegations of corruption against the D. P. I., namely, acceptance of illegal gratification through a close relation, in the form of a cheque

amounting to Rs. 32,000/-/drawn on the Punjab National Bank. I am not aware of the veracity of the statement made in this document, but the allegation is there. I, however, think that this is a defamation case and a great slur on the integrity of a high official of the State. I suggest that Government should permit the officer concerned to follow up the case and if the charge is found to be baseless, then the writer of the document, one Parshotam Lal of Delhi, should be severly dealt with for making a false charge.

Mr. Speaker : I would like to make one thing clear to the hon. Member. No doubt in the Constitution it has been provided that hon. Members of the Legislatures have freedom of speech while taking part in the deliberations of the Legislatures but that freedom of speech is subject to certain rules and regulations. In this connection I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Member to Rule 78 of our Rules of procedure, which lays down—that a Member while speeking should not :—

(iii) utter treasonable, or defamatory words or make use of offensive expression;

It is quite clear that the letter which the hon. Member referred to does contain defamatory statements and if I were in the House I would not have allowed the hon. Member to refer to that letter. Moreover the hon Member has himself admitted that he is not sure of the veracity of the statement nor is he sure of the genuineness of the letter, since, I understand, that the letter is not signed and some name is typed on it. All the same, genuineness or otherwise of a letter is not for this House to decide-that may be a matter for a court of law. The fact remains that defamatory statements even against persons who are present in this House and can defend themselves are not allowed and much less against those persons who are not able to defend themselves on the floor of the House. I would, therefore, request and appeal to the hon. Members that in future they should refrain from making any defamatory statements on the floor of the House nor should they refer to any documents or letters which contain such statements.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of personal explanation . . .

Mr. Speaker : I have heard the hon. Member and given my ruling.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir. Can the Chair cut short an hon. Member in the middle of his sentence ?

Mr. Speaker : I know what the hon. Member wants to say. He wants to say that whatever the hon. Chief Minister said was wrong. And there the matter ends

Mehta Ranbir Singh : No, Sir, it does not end there.

Mr. Speaker : Order please. It is for me to decide.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir. I want your definite Ruling on this point. When an hon. Minister repeats a libellous statement, will you allow that ?

Mr. Speaker : I have already said that the matter ends when I have given my ruling.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Sir.........

Mr. Speaker : Order, order. I find that the hon. Member is behaving in a manner which is not proper and in keeping with the dignity of the House. He should know that he can not only be named but action can be taken against him in some other way also. Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100—

The Assembly divided. Ayes : 5 Noes : 45

AYES

Bachan Singh, Sardar.

Jaswant Singh Duggal, Sardar.

Ranbir Singh, Mehta.

Rattan Singh, Sardar.

Sajjan Singh, Sardar.

NOES

Ajit Singh, Sardar.

Amar Nath Vidyalankar, Shri.

Behari Lal Chanana, Shri.

Beli Ram, Thakur.

Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri,

Bhagwan Dass, Shri.

Bikram Chand, Dr.

Buja Ram Bhagat, Shri.

Dalip Singh, Thakur.

Dev Raj Sethi, Shri.

Faqir Chand, Pandit.

Ganga Saran, Seth.

Gopi Chand Bhargava, The Hon. Dr.

Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar.

Gurbanta Singh, Master.

Harbhaj Ram, Chaudhri.

Ishar Singh Mujhail, The Hon. Sardar.

Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar.

Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar.

Kabul Singh, Sardar.

Kedar Nath Saigal, Shri.

Matu Ram, Chaudhri.

Mehr Chand, Chaudhri.

Narinder Singh, Sant.

Narotam Singh, The Hon. Sardar.

Pancham Chand, The Hon. Thakur.

Parkash Kaur, Shrimati Dr.

Partap Singh, Sardar.

Piara Singh, Sardar.

Prabodh Chandra, Shri.

Prem Singh, Chaudhri.

Prithvi Singh Azad, The Hon. Shri.

Rattan Singh Gill, Sardar.

Samar Singh, Chaudhri.

Sher Singh, Chaudhri.

Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.

Shiv Singh, Sardar.

Shri Ram Sharma.

Sita Devi, Shrimati.

Sudarshan, Seth.

Sundar Lal, Chaudhri.

Sundar Singh, Chaudhri.

Tara Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar.

Virendra, Shri.

Waryam Singh, Sardar.

Mr. Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,63,33,270 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52, in respect of General Administration.

The motion was carried.

HOURS OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, the 21st MARCH.

Chief Minister : I move.

That on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1951, the Assembly shall meet at 10 a.m., of the Clock and the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly at 2 p m. of the Clock without question put.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a m., on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1951.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

21st MARCH, 1951

Vol. III—No. 14.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 21st March, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 a. m. of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (the hon. Sardar Kapoor Singh) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REFUND OF FINE TO RAO MANGALI RAM OF VILLAGE KHATIWAS, DISTRICT ROHTAK.

*2620. **Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the reason why the two fines of Rs 50/- and Rs. 60/- (total Rs. 110/-) have not been refunded to Rao Mangli Ram, Congress worker of village Khatiwas, tehsil Jhajjar, District Rohtak in spite of the order of His Excellency the Governor, contained in letter No. 10370-PG-49/52358, dated the 22nd August, 1949, from the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: The fines have been refunded to Rao Mangli Ram.

Shri Ram Sharma: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the time that elapsed between the orders of the Government and the actual refund of the fine ?

Chief Minister: I cannot tell that; but the fine has since been refunded.

Shri Ram Sharma: Is it a fact that the fine was refunded one year after the orders were passed by the Government ?

Chief Minister: It is possible that one year might have passed but I cannot say for definite.

VISITS OF HONOURABLE MINISTERS OUTSIDE PUNJAB.

***2735. Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any of the hon. Ministers visited any places outside the Punjab State and charged travelling allowance for such journeys between 15th August 1947 and 31st March, 1948, 1st April 1948 and 31st March, 1949 and 1st April, 1950 and 31st January, 1951 respectively ; if so, the names of such hon. Ministers ;

(b) the places so visited together with dates of each visit ;

(c) the travelling allowance charged by each hon. Minister for each of such journeys ;

(d) the object of the journey in each case ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: (a), (b), (c) and (d) A statement containing the requisite information, is laid on the Table.†

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE FOR ATTENDING MEETINGS OF ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

***2736. Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether any of the hon. Ministers has been or is a member of the All India Congress Committee and the Congress Working Committee during the last 3 years; if so, the name or names of such hon. Ministers ;

†Kept in the Library.

(b) whether any of the hon. Ministers referred to in part (a) above attended the meetings of either of the Committees mentioned above during the period 31st August, 1947 to 31st January, 1951 and charged travelling allowance for the journeys performed in this connection; if so, their names with the following particulars;

(i) the amount of the travelling allowance charged for each journey together with its date;

(ii) the places where the meetings of All India Congress Committee and the Congress Working Committee were held?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes.

Working Committee:—	S. Partap Singh Kairon.
All India Congress Committee:—	1. Hon. Chief Minister.
	2. The late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi.

(b) (i) Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, 14th December 1948 to 20th December, 1948. (From Delhi to Jaipur and back) — — — Rs. 307/8/-.

(ii) Jaipur.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is the hon. Chief Minister aware of the fact that Sardar Partap Singh has not actually drawn his travelling allowance so far?

Chief Minister: He has not as yet withdrawn his travelling allowance bill and we are corresponding with the Government of India on this subject.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know if the Government of India has intimated whether the bill is reasonable or not?

Chief Minister: We have not received any reply so far.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the Punjab Government has considered this matter and decided whether such travelling allowances should be given or not?

Chief Minister : We decided that such travelling allowances should be given. Now we have written to the Government of India.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the reasons due to which the Punjab Government decided to give such allowances.

Chief Minister : The Punjab Government considered that these allowances should be given. That is why they were permitted. There are no other reasons.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if travelling allowance is given for going on some Government business or even for going to attend a meeting or a marriage party ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF EACH DEPARTMENT IN THE STATE.

*2737. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the sanctioned cadre of 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade officers and officials in each department of the Provincial or State Government on 15th August, 1947, 1st January, 1948, 1st January, 1949, 1st January, 1950, and 1st February, 1951 respectively ;

(b) the number of the persons of each grade referred to above who were available to the East Punjab Government after partition on account of their migration from West Pakistan up to 31st December, 1947 and who were fixed up by the Government ;

(c) the number of the officers of each grade referred to in part (a) above who were recruited directly in each Department by the Government without their cases being referred for approval to the Punjab Public Service Commission upto 31st January 1951 ;

(d the number of the officers of each grade referred to in part (a) above who were recruited in each Department on the recommendation of the Punjab Public Service Commission;

(e) the date on which the Punjab Public Service Commission was constituted ;

(f) (i) the number of the officers of each grade referred to above who were recruited by Government in each Department and whose cases were sent to the Punjab Public Service Commission for approval ;

(ii) the number of such cases approved for each Department by the Punjab Public Service Commission ;

(iii) the number of such cases in each Department which were not approved by the Punjab Public Service Commission ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava : It is regretted that the information asked for is not readily available and the time and trouble involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the decision on the question whether the reply would be commensurate with the time and effort involved, lies with the Government or with the hon. Member putting the question.

Mr. Speaker : Next question, please.

PARLIAMENTARY AND PRIVATE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

*2842. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total amount of salary besides the compensatory allowance drawn by each Parliamentary Secretary or Private Parliamentary Secretary since his appointment together with the travelling allowance drawn by him in this capacity ;

(b) briefly the Parliamentary or administrative work done by each Parliamentary Secretary or Private Parliamentary Secretary since his appointment ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The Parliamentary Secretaries and Parliamentary Private Secretaries are allowed a salary of Rs. 360/- and Rs. 225 P. M. respectively, but most of them have not so far drawn

[ChiefMinister]

it since their appointment in October, 1950. A statement regarding the travelling allowance drawn is laid on the Table.

(b) The Parliamentary Secretaries and Parliamentary Private Secretaries attended to such of the State work, Parliamentary and administrative, as was entrusted to them by their respective Ministers.

STATEMENT SHOWING T. A. DRAWN BY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES AND PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARIES SINCE THEIR APPOINTMENT IN OCTOBER, 1950.

Parliamentary Secretaries :—

	Total amount of T A. drawn.	Total amount of salary drawn.
S. Shiv Saran Singh	180-12-0	
S. Ajit Singh	Not yet drawn	Not yet drawn
Th. Beli Ram	Do	Do
Ch. Jagdish Chandar	Do	1231 11-0
Ch. Samar Singh	Do	Not yet drawn.
Shri Dev Raj Sethi	200-4-0	
S. Waryam Singh	Not yet drawn	Not yet drawn
Prof. Sher Singh	Do	Not yet drawn
Pt. Bhagat Ram Sharma	Do	Not yet drawn
Late S. Gurbachan Singh	480-0 0	Nil

Parliamentary Private Secretaries.

S. Shiv Singh	Not yet drawn	
Ch Matu Ram	Do	
Ch. Harbhaj Ram	Do	Not yet drawn

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the reasons due to which the salary of the Parliamentary Secretaries has been reduced to Rs. 360 from Rs. 450 per mensem ?

Chief Minister : When the salaries of others were reduced by 10 per cent, the salaries of the Parliamentary Secretaries were also reduced.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the Parliamentary Secretaries have got work. May I know the amount of work done by each of the Parliamentary Secretaries ever since they were appointed towards the end of the last Session in October ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied to this question.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what work has been done by each of the Parliamentary Secretaries separately during the period of their appointment ?

Chief Minister : I have not got the details of the work done by them.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know as to what work the Parliamentary Secretaries do besides replying to the questions on the floor of the House ?

Chief Minister : They do the work which is [illegible]ed to them by the hon. Ministers. I can, however, tell one [illegible] which the[illegible] d. They helped me by giving information about their departments at t[illegible] time of discussion on the Budget.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if there is any limit to the work entrusted to the Parliamentary Secretaries ? Can the Ministers entrust them their private work also ?

Chief Minister : They do only official work and not the personal work of Ministers.

Pandit Faqir Chand : May I know why the number of the Parliamentary Secretaries which was 7 during the time of the Sachar Government, has now been raised to 14 ?

Chief Minister : The Government thought it necessary to do so.

Pandit Faqir Chand : May I know if the Government has not disobeyed the Parliamentary Board by doing so ?

Mr. Speaker : Disallowed.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the work of the Government suffered during the time when there were no Parliamentary Secretaries ?

Chief Minister: It was difficult to carry on the work but now it has become easier.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know the duties of Parliamentary Secretaries during the year besides the giving of replies during the Session ?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

CORRUPTION AND BLACK-MARKETING

*2843. **Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state in detail, the steps taken by the Government to put a stop to ever increasing corruption and black-marketing in the State?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: It is not correct to say that corruption and black-marketing are on the increase in the State; on the other hand, I can say that these anti-social and anti-national practices are on the decline. Government is quite alive to the existence of these vices in whatever form and is determined to clean up the public life in the State with the co-operation of the general public. In his capacity as Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Sub Committee which deals with complaints pertaining to non-officials, the hon. Member is aware that a high level Anti-Corruption Committee was appointed by Government soon after partition and that the Committee is directing the State-wide drive against corruption. The Committee has at its disposal the assistance of a Special Inquiry Agency to hold preliminary inquiries into complaints against public servants where it is considered that such enquiries are needed. This is in addition to normal inquiries instituted in the various departments on the initiative of the heads of Departments themselves or on receipt of complaints.

All complaints of corruption except those which are anonymous or which do not contain specific allegations are enquired into and action is taken against those who are found guilty. Dismissal has been regarded as the only appropriate punishment for proved cases of corruption Government has also under consideration a set of Rules which are being issued very shortly) with a view to evolving a procedure to deal with corruption cases more expeditiously.

Similarly, the district staff in each district has been instructed to enforce the various control orders rigidly. To trap black-marketeers bogus purchasers are also availed of where necessary. Action under the Preventive Detention Act has been taken where it was proved to the satisfaction of the District Magistrate concerned that the person or persons involved were engaged in activities affecting supplies essential to the life of the community.

Shri Ram Sharma: The hon Chief Minister has stated in his reply that there is a decline in corr uption and black-marketing in the State. May I know on what grounds he bases his conclusions?

Chief Minister: The circumstances point out that there is a decline.

Shri Ram Sharma: Can the hon. Chief Minister state the facts and figures which point to this?

Chief Minister: It is after seeing the general conditions that public come to believe in the prevalence of corruption etc. The Government also bases its opinions on such conditions.

Master Gurbanta Singh: Can there be any er[illegible]y if an hon. Minister is corrupt?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that during the investigation of some cases of corruption and blackmarketing no protection has been afforded to the prosecution witnesses? Does the Government propose taking steps to afford such protection?

Chief Minister: That is a request for action If definite instances are brought to our notice, action can be taken.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that in Hissar there was a case of corruption against the Director of Electric Company and that some of the clerks were discharged in cansequence of their being witnesses in the case?

Chief Minister: There is no case of black marketing as far as I am aware.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: On a point of order, Sir. The Chair was pleased to observe, at any rate, I understood the Chair to rule that it would not be in order to enquire from the Government, if the

[Shri Bhim Sen Sachar]

Government can take action against a Minister against whom there may be allegations of corruption. I want to know from the Chair, will it not be in order to ask from the Government if action can be taken by the Government against a Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Generally such questions against a Minister can be taken up by a substantive motion only......

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Sir, that is not the point. The point is whether information can be had on this point from the Government. I want to know from the Government whether it can also take action against a Mi ister against whom certain allegations might be brought to its notice? Am I in order in asking for such an information?

Mr. Speaker: It is not a definite question. It is a proposition.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know what steps the Government has taken to implement the provisions of the Preventive Detention Act relating to black-marketing?

Chief Minister: Steps have been taken. The report has been distributed among the hon. Members.

Pandit Faqir Chand: Is it a fact that in Amritsar, as it is rumoured, the District Civil Supplies Officer has been transferred and a sum of Rs. 60,000 has been taken as bribe for the purpose?

Chief Minister: It is a false insinuation.

Shimati Sita Devi: If an hon. Minister gives shelter to a black-marketer is he not included in the defination of black-marketer?

Mr. Speaker: Disallowed.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY THE HON. MINISTERS.

*2844. **Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) the monthly travelling allowance drawn by each hon. Minister, and the days spent by him on tours out of the station, since 1st November, 1950;

(b) a brief summary of the work done by each hon. Minister while on tour during the last 4 months ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) A statement is given below.

(b) State work.

		T.A. Drawn			No. of days spent on tour.		
		Nov. 50	Dec. 50	Jan. 51	Nov. 50	Dec. 50	Jan. 51
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
1.	H.C.M.	1126/8/-	1210/1/-	705/12/-	22	12	24
2.	H.M.L.	345/-	bill not yet drawn		19	21	25
3.	H.M.P.W.	1446/-	1451/4/-	1314/12/-	15	15	12
4.	H.M.[illegible].	1583/4/-	2180/10/-	1932/5/-	22	27	25
5.	H.M.R.R.	1297/2/-	2140/3/-	1614/15/-	25	20	21
6.	H.M.E.	613/15/3	1417/14/-	679/1/-	18	14	17
7.	The late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi	924/12/-	(including 1st December)		13(including 1st December)		

HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR LABOUR.

*2845. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) the reason why the hon. Minister of Labour has been relieved of certain portfolios;

(b) whether he has sufficient work to do as Minister at present;

(c) the average number of files he is required to deal within a week ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the reply already given to Starred Assembly Question No. 2787.†

†Vide page (9) 21.

[Chief Minister]

(b) Yes. Besides file work, an hon. Minister has to chalk out fresh policies. Labour is an important department, newly started in our State, and requires constant attention for the growing expansion of its activities. Besides, the Labour Minister is incharge of the new department that has been created for Harijan welfare work.

(c) The disposal of files varies from time to time, according to the number received, and no averages can be worked out.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Is it not a fact that this has been done simply in order to please a group of persons whom the hon. Chief Minister dare not displease in any case ?

Mr. Speaker : This is an insinuation.

DISPENSARIES.

*2861. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of new dispensaries opened in the State during the year 1950 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Sixteen. Besides, nine dispensaries were transferred to the Punjab on the merger of States.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the Government has any long term plan or policy in the matter of opening new dispensaries in the rural areas of the State every year ?

Chief Minister : The Government had a plan that there should be a dispensary for every hundred square miles of territory. But now we have decided to reduce the area to be served by a dispensary. As the plan now stands we would like to have a dispensary for every fifty square miles of territory and for 1,500 of population. This plan will be put into practice as soon as funds are available for the purpose.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know how long it will take to put this plan into tpractice ?

Chief Minister : I have stated that as soon as the funds improve we will put the scheme into practice.

PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN DISTRICT GURDASPUR.

*2863. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of punitive police posts in the Gurdaspur district at present ;

(b) the reasons for establishing these posts ;

(c) the dates when these posts were established ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) No punitive police post exists at present in the Gurdaspur District.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NEW LIQUOR SHOPS OPENED IN THE STATE.

*2864. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minist[illegible] be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of new liquor shops opened in the Stat[illegible] since the partition ;

(b) the amount of revenue realised from these shops during the last three years ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Two. These shops were already located at Pataudi and Loharu before their merger with the Punjab and have continued to remain there after the merger .

(b)

Year	Revenue Rs.	
1948-49 (1st October 1948 to 31st March 1949)	6,189	(The licenses were granted with effect from the 1st October, 1948 and thus they functioned for six months only during the year 1948-49)
1949-50	15,458/-	
1950-51	17,538/-	

PROHIBITION IN THE STATE.

*2865. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State the steps so far taken by the Government to introduce Prohibition in the State ?

The hon. Doctor Gopi Chand Bhargava : A note showing the steps so far taken to introduce prohibition in the State is laid on the Table.†

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that such shops would remain closed on Tuesdays, Gandhijis' Birthday and 15th August. Have any instructions been issued with regard to some other days ?

Chief Minister. I reqiure notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It has been stated that no person below twenty five years in age will be allowed to buy liquor. Is it not a fact that liquor is being bought irrespective of the age of the buyer ?

Chief Minister : It is not in my knowledge

STARTING PAY OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS IN THE STATE.

*3035. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State :—

(a) the total number of Extra Assistant Commissioners in the State district-wise ;

(b) the starting pay of an Extra Assistant Commissioner in the State ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The required information is given in the statement placed on the Table.†

(b) Rs. 300/- except in the case of directly recruited Extra Assistant Commissioners under training, who get Rs. 125/-

† Kept in the Library

till they have completed their training and passed their departmental examinations by the Higher Standard, when they also start getting 300/-.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS SERVING IN THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF PUNJAB.

1.	Hissar	...	...	...	9
2.	Rohtak	...	...	...	8
3.	Gurgoan	...	...	...	6
4.	Karnal	...	...	...	11
5.	Ambala	...	...	...	10
6.	Simla	...	...	...	3
7.	Kangra	...	...	...	6
8.	Jullundur	...	...	...	12
9.	Hoshiarpur	...	...	...	9
10.	Ludhiana	...	...	...	9
11.	Ferozepur	...	...	...	17
12,	Amritsar	...	...	...	16
13.	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	10

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Is it a fact that cars are being provided to them by the Government ?

Chief Minister : There is no truth in it.

BHAKRA DAM PROJECT.

*3050. **Thakur Dalip Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of villages in the Kangra District shall come under water in connection with the construction of Bhakra Dam,

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the number of such villages alongwith their names, the population and the area involved.

(c) where do the Government intend to rehabilitate the people likely to be ejected and whether the Government propose to give land for land to those people ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) 96 villages of Kangra District whose names are given in the enclosed list† will be affected by Bhakra Dam Reservoir. Approximate area of 11,610 acres is likely to be submerged under water. The population affected will be approximately 9000 persons.

(c) There are no State waste areas in the Punjab which can be offered to the displaced persons, but other measures are under consideration of the Government.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Will they get land some where else ?

Chief Minister : They will be provided with land far residential purposes.

Thakur Dalip Singh : What about cultivation.

Chief Minister : About that I cannot say at present. The rule is that generally cash compensation is given.

†Kept in the library.

SHRI RAM CHANDRA, A HARIJAN PATWARI.

*3052. **Chaudhri Prem Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Ram Chandra a Harijan Patwari, working continuously for the last seven years in the Deputy Commissioner's Office Gurgaon, has been reverted; if so, on what grounds;

(b) whether he was afforded an opportunity to explain his position as required by Article 311 (2) of Constitution of India?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail: The hon. Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 2774† asked by Chaudhri Sundar Singh who had sought the same information.

IRRIGATION IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

*3055. **Thakur Dalip Singh**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) the amount of money spent on irrigation works in the Kangra district in the years 1949-50;

(b) the number of new kuhls constructed and the places where they were constructed;

(c) the number of Kuhls repaired and where they were repaired.

(d) the additional area irrigated by such Kuhls together with the names of villages in which such area is situated?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Rs. 94,864|-

(b) Nil

Koishi Kuhl and Bari Kuhl were extended.

† Vide page (5) 1 Supra.

[Chief Minister]

(c) Eleven.

Details of Kuhls are placed on the table.

(d) Details placed on the table.

Details of Kuhls repaired in Kangra District during 1949-50.

(c) (i) Eleven.

(ii) 1. Baddi Kuhl in village Garoh.

2. Pakki Dangi Kuhl taking off from Khowli Khad in Shahpur.

3. Kirpal Chand Kuhl taking off from Neogal Khad in Palampur Tehsil.

4. Panditul Kuhl taking off from Awa Khad in Palampur Tehsil.

5. Dai Kuhl taking off from Awa Khad in Palampur Tehsil.

6. Patnohal Kuhl taking off from Neogal Khad in Palampur Tehsil.

7. Badhal Thor Kuhl in Dera Tehsil.

8. Dhanul Kuhl taking off from Baner Khad in Kangra Tehsil.

9. Koishi Kuhl at Naggar.

10. Bari Kuhl at Katrain.

11. Dhobi Kuhl taking off from Phojal Nala in Kulu Valley.

(d) Information regarding additional area irrigated by these Kuhls and the names of villages in which such area is situated is not yet available. Total area served by these Kuhls is 24,236 acres.

IMPORT OF TAXABLE ARTICLES FROM DELHI.

*3067. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that some traders import taxable articles from Delhi, d sell those articles in the Punjab, without paying Sales x;

(b) the approximate annual loss to the Government by such evasion of the sales tax;

(c) the steps, if any, taken by the Government to stop this unauthorised import, and evasion of the sales tax ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes

(b) Rs. twenty lakhs approximately.

(c) The measures to stop the evasion of Sales Tax are under the consideration of Government.

Shri Virendra : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us since when the Government is incurring this loss of Rs. 20 lakhs ?

Chief Minister : Since the imposition of the Sales Tax.

Shri Virendra : Do I take it that it is about a year since when this tax was levied.

Chief Minister : I think so.

Shri Virendra : May I know why Government has not been able to stop evasion of the Sales Tax for the last one year ?

Chief Minister : It is not as easy a job to do so as the hon. Member thinks. Besides, whatever action we take in the matter of Sales Tax, we do so in full consultation with the traders. If we take action independently to stop evasion of Sales Tax a l fail in our efforts then no useful purpose will be served. But we ›pe to put a stop to this evasion with the full co-operation of the traders. Moreover levy of Sales Tax in Delhi from April 1, 1951, will also help us to stop the evasion of this tax.

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES IN THE STATE.

*3069. **Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government have finalised the work of delimitation of constituencies in the State ;

(b) when the Government proposes to publish these proposals for public information ;

(c) whether the Government proposes to invite objections to these prosposals before they are finalised ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) No.

(b) and (c) the matter is the subject of correspondence with the Election Commission, India, which will make its recommendations, in consultation with the Delimitation Committee appointed by Parliament, to the President who will take the final decision. We will communicate the views of the Committee appointed by the hon. Speaker to the Commission.

Sir, after the reply had been drafted by the office, I received the information that the meeting of the Delimitation Committee of the Parliament is going to take place today (21st March) to discuss the delimitation of constituencies for the Parliament. I have asked the Home Secretary to personally represent to the Committee at Delhi, that after they have finalised their recommendations these should be made available to us, so that we may, after consultation, be able to give a final decision. We could not give a final decision because we were hardly able to tabulate the figures of voters after their revision.

Mr. Speaker : May I know if the recommendations of our Committee have been forwarded to the Central Delimitation Committee ?

Chief Minister : Yes, Sir, those recommendations were forwarded to that Committee.

Shri Virendra : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us whether the Committee set up by the hon. Speaker for considering

proposals regarding delimitation of constituencies will be consulted by the Government before it forwards its final proposals to the Government of India ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Speaker so desires, his order will be obeyed.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether any changes were made in the original proposals of the Government regarding delimitation of constituencies by this Committee and these amended proposals were sent to the Government of India ?

Chief Minister : The proposals of the Government as also the recommendations made by this Committee were forwarded to the Parliamentary Delimitation Committee

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Government considered the recommendations or amendments made by this Committee in the original proposals of the Government and incorporated them in its final proposals sent to the Parliamentary Commission ?

Chief Minister : What the Government did, was, that it sent the recommendations of the Committee set up by the hon. Speaker after having fully considered them, along with the proposals of the Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon Chief Minister has stated that a request has been made to the Government of India to communicate the decisions of the Parliamentary Delimitation Committee to the Punjab Government so that it may consider them and send its views about them. May I enquire whether the Punjab Government is empowered to make any changes in the final decisions of the Parliamentary Delimitation Committee ?

Chief Minister : Since the President has to take the final decision, we have put in a request that the Punjab Government may be given an opportunity to express its views on the decisions of the Parliamentary Delimitation Committee.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to place the final decisions of the Parliamentary Delimitation Committee before the House for discussion or will it take decision on them indpendently of the House ?

Chief Minister : The matter will be left to the discretion of the hon. Speaker. Whatever he decides in this connection, will be carried out.

Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us whether the proposals sent by the Punjab Government are of a confidential nature or they can be published ?

Chief Minister They cannot be published. They have been communicated only to the Parliamentary Delimitation Committee.

RETRENCHMENT AND SUPERSESSION IN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (B & R BRANCH)

*2621. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it has recently come to his notice that in the Public Works Department (B & R Branch) some senior clerks have been discharged from service while junior men have been kept, and some other senior clerks have been reverted and their juniors retained as senior clerks;

(b) whether it is a fact that a junior most Assistant is going to be confirmed over and above the heads of so many seniors in the above mentioned department ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(a) No.

(b) No.

ELECTIONS TO SMALL TOWN COMMITTEES IN THE STATE.

*2740. **Sardar Sajjan Singh ;** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the date on which the last elections to each of the small town committees in the State were held ;

(b) the number of the elected and nominated members separately of each of such committees on 1st February, 1951 ;

(c) when does the Government intend to hold the next eletcions to these committees ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :

(a) A statement is laid on the Table.†

(b) A statement is laid on the Table.†

(c) Please refer to answer given to part (b) of question No. 2630.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The statement provided by the Government in reply to this question reveals that elections to Small Town Committees of Ramdas and Sultanwind villages in the Amritsar District were held on 14th December 1947. May I know the reason why elections to Allawalpur Small Town Committee in Jullundur District could not be held in view of the fact that for the last 14 years no elections had taken place there?

Parliamentary Secretary: Elections could not be held there owing to certain special circumstances prevailing in the State.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When it was possible for the Government to hold elections to Ramdas and Sultanwind Small Town Committees in Amritsar District on 14th December 1947, where was the difficulty in ordering elections to Allawalpur Small Town Committee in the Jullundur District? May I know what special circumstances were prevailing in the Jullundur District which prevented the holding of elections there and which were non-existent in the Amritsar District and therefore enabled the Government to hold elections to the Small Town Committees there ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the hon. Member gives notice, necessary information will be collected.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : While I fail to understand the necessity of any notice for eliciting this information, may I ask whether the Government did not care to think that if in December 1947, elections to Small Town Committees were possible at two places, they could be held at other places also ?

†Kept in the Library.

Minister for Labour: I am sorry that the date of election given in the reply is incorrect. It has been wrongly supplied owing to the mistake on the part of the office concerned.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary please state the reasons or circumstances which led the Government to postpone the elections?

Parliamentary Secretary: The postponement of elections was brought about owing to the disturbed conditions of law and order in the State during 1947. Besides, the electoral rolls had not been prepared. As soon as the electoral rolls are completed a decision will be taken by the Government to hold the elections.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Do I take it that the law and order condition in the Jullundur District in 1947 was worse than in Amritsar District and, therefore, elections to Small Town Committee could not be held?

Parliamentary Secretary: Since it has been admitted that a wrong date has been mentioned in the main reply, this question does not arise.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: Is the Government aware that it is no less than 14 years since elections were held to Allawalpur Small Town Committee?

BORING OF TUBEWELLS IN SHAHPUR KANDI ILAQA.

*2862. **Shri Prabodh Chandra**: Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government intends to bore some tubewells in Shahpur Kandi Ilaqa of Pathankot Tehsil to solve the problem of scarcity of drinking water; if so, how many?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh: The matter is under investigation.

PROVISION OF HOUSES TO REFUGEES.

*3033. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth**: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of refugee camps still in existence in the State together with the number of refugees still living in them;

(b) the number of refugee towns built in the State so far together with the following information :—

(i) the number of houses built so far in those towns ;

(ii) the number of houses occupied by the refugees ;

(iii) the number of houses still vacant ;

(c) the number of refugee families who have been provided with roofed shelter?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) 28 Relief Camps including Women Homes and Infirmaries are in existence in the State at present. The total population in these as reported on 3rd February 1951 was 97, 441. Gratuitous relief is given only to the inmates of Women Homes and Infirmaries.

(b) (i) Fourteen Townships in all have been developed in the State, where 3,873 houses have been constructed and 56 houses are under construction.

(ii) 3,171 houses are occupied by displaced persons, including displaced aged and infirm persons in the infirmaries and Government servants.

(iii) 268 houses are lying vacant in the New Townships of Rohtak, Karnal, Hoshiarpur and Rewari. (A brief statement giving the details of these houses in each New Township is enclosed).†

(c) The number of displaced persons provided with roofed shelter by the Government is detailed as under :—

(i) 9,22,322 displaced persons or approximately 1,84,465 displaced families are accommodated in evacueed houses.

(ii) 72,468 displaced persons or approximately 14,494 families in Mud Huts.

(iii) 5,555 displaced persons or approximately 1,111 families in Women Homes.

† Kept in the Library

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

(iv) 20,000 displaced persons or approximately 3,334 families in New Townships.

NEW PRIMARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

*2860. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the numbers separately of new Primary, Middle and High Schools opened in the State during the year 1950?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand :

Number of new schools opened in the state during 1950 :—

Primary.	Middle.	High.
162	32	29

These figures do not include information about Hoshiarpur District Girls Schools.

DAMAGE TO STANDING CROPS BY LOCUSTS IN THE STATE.

*3034. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :-

(a) the number of places visited recently by locusts in the State ;

(b) the extent of damage done to the standing crops?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand :

(a) 456 villages were visited from 10th January, 1951 to 28th February, 1951.

(b) The extent of damage done to standing crops varied greatly in different fields in a village and in different villages in the district according to the infestation and duration of stay of locusts. Special Girdawari when completed will show the extent of damage.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : May I know if the Government is going to exempt those zamindars from the payment of land revenue who have suffered heavy losses due to the visitation of the locusts?

Minister: Government will consider that as soon as the Girdawari reports are ready.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: Has the Government supplied any fodder to the people in these areas?

Minister: The Deputy Commississioners have been instructed to submit their reports about the distribution of fodder to the people in these areas.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: What arrangement has the Government made to make fodder available to these people for the period before it receives the reports from the Deputy Commissioners as referred to by the hon. Minister ?

Minister: Arrangements are being made by the Government to provide them with all the things they need.

EXTRA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

*3047. **Thakur Dalip Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture posted at and transferred from Kangra District since 1947 ;

(b) whether Government is aware that on account of these frequent transfers agriculture work has suffered a good deal in the Kangra District ; if so, the action Government proposes to take in the matter ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand:

(a) Six.

(b) These postings and transfers were ordered in the exigencies of public service. As the district has not been allowed to remain without any Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture the agricultural work has not suffered in the least. A sufficiently senior officer, who is not likely to be shifted soon, has recently been posted there.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether the transfers of these Extra Assistant Directors are made as a punishment to them or for the efficient accomplishment of the work of the Government ?

Minister: They were transferred in the exigencies of public service.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: What are the reasons for these frequent transfers ?

Minister: I have already stated that these transfers were ordered in the exigencies of public service.

SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

*2744. **Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the sanctioned strength of Superintendents, Additional Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables respectively in the Police Department on 1st January 1948, 1st January 1949, 1st January 1950 and 1st January 1951 respectively ;

(b) the number of posts which were filled by temporary (officiating) hands on the dates mentioned above ;

(c) the number of posts which have not so far been filled by permanent hands together with the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) and (b) The statement is laid on the Table.†

(c) The statement is laid on the Table.† Due to shortage of officers and to test the efficiency of incumbents.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) above, may I know why the number of these officiating officers is so large ?

† Kept in the Library

Chief Minister : An officer is not confirmed as soon as he is appointed. He has to complete his period of probation before he is confirmed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What is the period of probation of the Superintendent of Police and other officials. Is it 4 years ?

Chief Minister : Generally the probation period for all Government servants is 2 years.

SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

***2747. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State :—

(a) the sanctioned strength of the 1st and 2nd grade officers respectively in the Irrigation Department on 1st January 1948, 1st January 1949, 1st January 1950 and 1st January 1951 respectively ;

(b) the number of the posts referred to in part (a) above which were filled by officiating officers on the dates mentioned above ;

(c) the number of the posts which have not been filled so far by permanent hands together with the reasons therefor ;

(d) when does the Government propose to fill these posts by permanent hands ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) to (d). There are no 1st and 2nd grade officers employed in the Irrigation Department and hence it is not possible to furnish the information desired by the hon. Member.

SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF THE MEDICAL, PUBLIC HEALTH ETC., DEPARTMENTS.

*2748. **Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) the sanctioned strength of the 1st and 2nd grade officers in the Medical and Public Health and the Excise and Taxation Departments separately on the 1st January, 1948; 1st January, 1949, 1st January, 1950 and 1st January, 1951, respectively;

(b) the number of posts referred to above which were filled by officiating hands in each of the aforesaid departments on the dates mentioned above;

(c) the number of the posts which have not been filled so far by permanent hands in each of the aforesaid departments together with the reasons therefor;

(d) when does the Government propose to fill these posts by permanent hands ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: A statement is laid on the Table †

Sardar Sajjan Singh: In view of the reply given to parts (b) and (c) above regarding the Excise and Taxation Department, that no post has so far been filled up by permanent hands as the Department was made permanent from the 1st March, 1950, may I know whether the probation period of these officials starts from 1st March, 1950 or before ?

Chief Minister: This department was made permanent on 1st March, 1950. Now the time has come as to who amongst them should be made permanent against the permanent vacancies.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is it a fact that some of the officials have been on probation for the last 4 years or more ? Is it also a fact that in spite of their having worked in different officiating capacities they have not been made permanent ?

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† Kept in the Library.

Chief Minister : I have already stated that no post has so far been filled up by permanent hands as the department was made permanent from the 1st March, 1950. They will be made permanent at the opportune time.

STEEL SCANDAL CASES.

*2846. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of 'Steel Scandal' cases that have been withdrawn by the Government together with the reasons for withdrawal in each case ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The Government have decided to withdraw 31 cases. All these cases relate to iron and steel permits issued before 29th November, 1948, the date on which the Government of India for the first time issued their notification No. 1 (1)-1 (71) dated 29th November, 1948, delegating powers of Controller to the Deputy Director of Industries, East Punjab and as such these could not be proceeded with legally.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

*2847. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) the steps Government has taken to implement the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in their recent report about the travelling allowance of the hon. Ministers and first class Government officers, as endorsed by this Assembly;

(b) the action taken on other recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee as endorsed by this Assembly ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Government have considered the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee and have decided that there is no scope for any further reduction in the existing rates of road mileage for journeys by road in the case of officers of grade I and the hon. Ministers.

(b) Action has been taken on several of the recommendations; on others it is under consideration. A complete statement of the action taken will, as usual, from an annexure to the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for the year 1948-49.

ADVERTISEMENTS BY THE GOVERNMENT.

*2866. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total amount spent by the Government during the year 1950 on advertisments in the newspapers;

(b) the names of the newspapers in which these advertisements appeared together with the amount paid to each one of them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

(a) Rs. 77,499/4/9

(b) It is not in public interest to disclose this information.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS.

*2867. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government maintains a black list of the newspapers to which Government advertisements are not given ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

No.

FINANCIAL AID FROM THE UNION GOVERNMENT.

*2868. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the financial aid received from the Union Government in the form of grants or loans to the State during the year 1950 ;

(b) the manner in which these funds have been utilised ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) During the year 1950, this State Government received the following amounts aggregating to Rs. 12,31,95,000 in the form of Loans and Grant-in-aid from the Central Government,

	Rs.
1. LOAN :—	
Rehabilitation Loan (Urban and Rural)	1,50,00,000
Loan to Panjab University	2,19,000
Loan for Gujrat Train Tragedy	1,00,000
Housing Loan for displaced persons	58,00,000
Loan for Buria Muslims	20,000
Loan for Industrial Housing Schemes	10,00,000
Loan for Bhakra and Nangal Schemes	7,00,00,000
Loan for Ferozepore Canal Project	18,00,000
Loans for G.M F. Schemes	2,36,31,000
II. GRANT-IN-AID.	
Subvention	56,25,000
Total —	12,31,95,000

[Chief Minister]

(b) The loan money has been spent or is being spent on the schemes for which the Central Govt. advanced the amounts whereas the Grant-in-aid has been utilised for meeting the gap between Revenue Receipts and Revenue Expenditure of the State

Shri Amarnath Vidyalankar : May I know whether these subventions were given according to Deshmukh Award ?

Chief Minister : These were sudsidies and not subventions under the Deshmukh Award.

Shri Amarnath Vidyalankar : May I know whether the statutory share of income tax is included in this amount or not ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say.

MURDER CASES IN THE STATE.

*2869. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of murders committed in the State during the year 1949-50 ;

(b) the number of cases which were traced and which remained untraced separately ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 686.

(b) 460 cases were traced and 202 remained untraced.

Note.—16 cases were cancelled and 8 are pending investigation.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that certain murder cases are not registered by the Police ; if so, what action Government propose to take on such cases ?

Chief Minister : I can only say of those reports which are made at the Police Stations. It is not possible for me to say about those reports which are not received by the police.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the same old system of registering complaints is followed which was in vogue during the British regime when the reports made by officers were inquired into and the reports made by ordinary persons were not taken notice of ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : As 80% cases have remained untraced, may I know whether the Government has introduced a better system of making investigation of the crimes or is adhering to the same old system ?

Chief Minister : All possible measures are adopted to trace out the crimes.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Government has introduced some scientific methods according to which investigation is made in such cases ; or is it still following the same old practice which was followed before the year 1947 ?

Chief Minister : I would make an enquiry and can give a reply after making a comparison.

SALES TAX SUB-INSPECTOR, MOGA.

*2895. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that Sales Tax Sub-Inspector Moga, recently entered the business premises of Bhandari Electric Stores and harassed the proprietor ;

(b) whether under the provision of the Sales Tax Act of 1948, a Sales Tax Sub-Inspector is allowed to enter the premises of any shop ;

(c) whether M/S Bhandari Electric Stores were supplied with a copy or were allowed to see the inspection report of the said Tax Sub-Inspector ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) No.

[Chief Minister]

(b) No,

(c) No. The inspection report of a Taxation Sub-Inspector is a confidential Government record which cannot be shown to any member of the public.

COMPLAINT AGAINST SALES TAX SUB-INSPECTOR, MOGA.

*2897. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he recently received a complaint against the Sales Tax Sub-Inspector Moga (Ferozepore) ; if so, whether any enquiry was made into the allegations made therein ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that the Sales Tax Sub-Inspector referred to in part (a) above was selling Application forms for registration etc., at Rs. -/4/- per form ;

(c) the results of enquiry referred to in part (a) above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) First Part : Yes

Second Part : Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The complaints were found to be wrong.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know the name of the officer who made this enquiry ?

Chief Minister : I can't say at present.

WATER RATES IN BHALAUT DISTRIBUTARY SUB-DIVISION.

*2898. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Canal Act, by a notification, the water rates of lift water were fixed, as half of the flow water ;

(b) if so, whether that notification has since been cancelled, as far as the Bhalaut Distributary in Bhalaut Sub-Division of the Hariana Division, is concerned.

(c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that for the Bhalaut Distributary referred to in part (b) above, the lift and flow rates are the same; if so, the reasons thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No. Sanctioned lift areas when irrigated by lift are charged at lift rates but unsanctioned lift areas if irrigated are assessed at lift rates and in addition a special rate equal to the lift rates is levied for the crops sown.

POSTINGS AND TRANSFERS OF SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS IRRIGATION IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

*3056. **Thakur Dalip Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Sub-Divisional Officers, Irrigation posted in Kulu and Kangra Sub-Divisions in the year 1949-50 and transfers made in the same year ;

(b) the reasons for the quick transfers in the cases referred to in part (a) above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Only one Sub-Divisional Officer was posted to Sultanpur Sub-Division at Kulu and five Sub-Division Officers were posted to Kangra Sub-Division in the year 1949-50.

(b) Reversions and promotions of the officers posted to Kangra Sub-Division led to four transfers.

Thakur Dalip Singh : May I know what are the reasons that the officers in Kangra are transferred so soon ?

Chief Minister : Quick transfers are made due to reversions and promotions.

GROW MORE FOOD COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN KANGRA IRRIGATION SUB-DIVISION.

*3057. **Thakur Dalip Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Sub-Divisional Officer (Irrigation) Kangra Sub-Division was expected to attend District Grow More Food Committee meetings and submit his progress report there; if so, the number of such meetings attended by him in the year 1949-50 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Yes.

He attended meetings of District Grow More Food Commitee on 7th January 1950 and 7th March 1950 during the year 1949-50. The Kangra Sub Division was opened only on 7th November 1949.

SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

*2745. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) the sanctioned strength of 1st and 2nd grade officers respectively in the Labour Department on 1st January 1948, January 1949, 1st January 1950 and 1st January 1951 1st respectively ;

(b) the number of posts which were filled by temporary (officiating) hands in the aforesaid department on the dates mentioned above ;

(c) the number of posts which have not so far been filled by confirmed hands together with the reasons therefor ;

(d) when are such posts likely to be filled by permanent hands ?

The hon Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) The Labour Department in this State came into existence only in July 1949. The sanctioned strength of 1st and 2nd grade officers in this Department, (on 1st January 1950 and 1st January 1951), was one and two as given below :—

1st grade	—	—	one Labour Commissioner.
2nd grade	—	—	two Labour Officers.

(b) The Labour Commissioner took over on the 6th July, 1949, and one Labour Officer joined on the 13th June, 1949 ;

(c) The post of 2nd Labour Officer has not been filled in so far because efforts were being made to gauge how much load one Labour Officer could carry ;

(d) The post will be filled in due course, when complete data as to the volume of work is available.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know under which class of Government servants the Labour Inspectors fall ?

Minister: In Class III.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the number of Labour Inspectors who were recruited through the Public Service Commission and the number of those whose appointment was made by the Government ?

Minister : All these posts were filled through the Public Service Commission.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it not a fact that one Labour Inspector was appointed by the Government before August, sometime in April 1949 and 11 Labour Inspectors were recruited through the Public Service Commission in August 1949 ? The Public Service Commission fixed their seniority but the person who was appointed by the Government was placed senior-most of all ?

Minister: Perhaps my hon. Friend is referring to that Labour Inspector who was first employed as Weights and Measures Inspector in the Industries Department. When he was recruited as Labour Inspector the pay of the post was Rs. 140/- per mensem. He continued to work on this pay. Afterwards the pay of Labour Inspectors was raised to Rs. 180/- and it was necessary to refer the case to the Public Service Commission. As the person in question was already in Government service holding the appointment of Labour Inspector he was not recruited through the Public Service Commission. His case was, however, submitted to the Public Service Commission for its approval.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Was there no scale of pay fixed for the post of Labour Inspector when this particular person was appointed to it?

Minister: When this Labour Department was started, services of persons with requisite qualifications could not be secured immediately and so the work was set going by loaning the services of officials of the Industries Department. This candidate was also taken from the Industries Department as he had some experience of labour or cognate work.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Was the personal file of this candidate sent to the Public Service Commission at the time they were making the selection of other candidates for the posts of Labour Inspectors?

Minister: When the grade of the post of Labour Inspector was fixed vis-a-vis the grade of the same post under the Government of India and the question of allowing that grade to the candidate in question arose his personal file was sent to the Public Service Commission.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Was his case considered by the Public Service Commission at the same time as the selection of other candidates was held or afterwards?

Minister: Since he was already a Government servant it was not necessary to refer his case to the Public Service Commission along with other candidates simply because the Government had revised the grade of the post. After judging his suitability, however, his personal file was sent to the Commission to have his case approved by them.

Master Gurbanta Singh : May I know if any Harijans have been appointed to the posts of Labour Inspectors?

Minister : So far as I remember 3 out of 13 posts have gone to Harijans and so they have got a large share than the percentage fixed for them.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know if three Harijan have been appointed on the basis of their qualifications or just because their respresentation in other departments is much less than the percentage of posts fixed for them?

Minister : The Harijans have been given greater representation in this department because Backward Communities constitute the majority of the labour class. Moreover these Harijan candidates fulfilled the requisite qualifications and so no favour has been shown to them.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I hope the Government has no desire to reduce their share in other departments just beeause they have been allowed a little more than their due share of posts in this department.

Minster : No.

SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ETC.,

*2746. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state:—

(a) the sanctioned strength of the 1st and 2nd grade officers respectively of the Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads Branch),the Public Health, Engineering, the Electricity, the Local Self Government, the Panchayats and the Stationery and Printing Departments of the Sate Government on 1.1.48, and 1.1.51 respectively;

(b) the number of the aforesaid posts in each of the department referred to in part (a) above which were filled by temporary (officiating) hands on the dates mentioned above;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(c) the number of posts which have not been filled so far by permanent hands together with the reasons therefor;

(d) when does the Government propose to fill them by permanent hands ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :

(a) The sanctioned strength of the P.S.E. Class I and Class 11 in the Buildings and Roads Brach was 22 and 12 respectively on the said dates.

The permanent posts recently sanctioned for Public Health Circle are 1 Superintending Engineer, 1 Executive Engineer, 1 Assistant Engineer and 3 Assistant Engineers.

The permanent sanctioned strength of Electricity Branch, Stationery and Printing Department and Panchayat Department was as follows on the said dates :—

		1.1.48	1.1 49	1.1.50	1.1.51
Electricity Branch	Class I Officers	15	24	26	21
	Class II Officers	25	32	33	31
Stationery and Printing Department	Class I Officer	1 (re-employed after super-annuation till 20.6.48)	1	1	1
	Class II Officers	Nil	Nil	1	1
Panchayat Department	Class I	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
	Class II	1	1	1	1

(b) The following number of Class I and Class II posts were held by temporary (officiating) officers :—

Buildings and Roads Branch	Class I	8	5	7	6
	Class II	12	12	12	12
Electricity Branch	Class I	Nil	2	4	Nil
	Class II	1	5	4	2
Panchayat Department	Class I	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
	Class II	1	1	1	1

"Nil" so far as Stationery and Printing Department is concerned.

The posts of Public Health Circle have been sanctioned only recently.

So far as Local Government Department is concerned, only three P. C. S. Officers are working in Local bodies.

(c) Out of the six vacant posts in P. S. E. Class I in Buildings and Roads Branch, 4 have already been referred to the Punjab Public Service Commission, who held a competitive examination in January, 1951 for this purpose. The recommendations of the Commission have been received and these posts will be filled in very shortly.

In Electricity Branch no Class I permanent post is vacant. Two posts of Class II are vacant and Officers against these posts have not been confirmed so far as they are not eligible for confirmation according to the Service Rules of the Branch. Their cases for confirmation would be considered when they become eligible for confirmation.

"Nil', so far as Stationery and Printing Department is concerned.

(d) The remaining two posts in P. S. E. Class I of Buildings and Roads Branch will be filled in as soon as possible and those of Class II will be filled in as soon as that Service is formed.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

Action is already being taken to make permanent appointments against the posts sanctioned for Public Health Circle.

PROMOTIONS OF OVERSEERS IN P. W. D.

*2896. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the promotions of overseers in Public Works Department go neither by seniority nor by any fixed formula but by the reports of the immediate superior officers if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) **:**

Promotions are made on the basis of seniority-cum-merit and experience proves that this is the best principle.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know what is exactly meant by 'seniority-cum-merit.? To what extent is seniority taken into consideration in a particular case and to what extent merit and what are the conditions under which one can be exclusively ignored ?

Parliamentary Secretary : When the occasion for promotion to some post arises, first it is seen as to who are the senior most officials and then enquiries are made as to whose work and record among them are the best. Seniority alone does not justify anyone's promotion. Honesty, work and record etc., have to be taken into consideration. It is not possible to assign any percentages to these considerations.

Shri Ram Sharma : How can both 'seniority, and 'merit' go together in the matter of promotion ? Doesn't one overrule the other? What I want to know is, in which cases the principle of seniority is upheld and in which cases the principles of merit ?

Parliamentary Secretary : When among two or three more or less equally senior officials, the Head of the Department finds one of them to have done outstanding work he recommend him for promotion but that does not mean that seniority is ignored.

Shri Ram Sharma : Then should I take it that it has been left to the discretion of the Head of the Department whether to give promotion on the basis of seniority or merit ?

Minister for Labour : No, the position is not like this. When there are two equally senior officials in the field, the Head of the Department considers the work and record of each and decides the matter on the basis of merit though the final decision rests with the Government. When, however, in a certain case the claimants are found to be in the same level so far as merit is concerned the senior among them is promoted.

Shri Ram Sharma : Should I take it then that merit comes in only where the candidates are more or less equally senior and not in other cases ?

Minister : Both are equally kept in view. I wonder how the hon. Member is separating them.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether promotions in this Department are made purely on the basis of seniority or merit ?

Minister: On both.

Shri Ram Sharma : Then may I know in what cases and under what conditions seniority is considered and merit is ignored and *vice versa ?*

Minister : I have already replied to it. Both the criteria are kept in view in accordance with the rules that exist on the subject.

Shri Ram Sharma : What are those rules which exist for the guidance of the heads of departments in the matter of giving promotion ? Does the hon. Minister remember any of them ?

Minister : They are available in printed form. The hon. Member can look at them at any time he likes.

Chief Minister : Sir, the things which are printed can be seen by the hon. Member.

PRIVILEGE MOTION.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I rise to make a privilege motion. In rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure it is clearly laid down that :

> (2) A motion on a question of privilege may be made after questions and before the business of the day is entered upon, although the question does not suddenly arise, but any such motion shall be made at the earliest opportunity and does not ordinarily require notice.

But so far as the privileges themselves are concerned these rules arae as silent as the Government.

Mr. Speaker : What is the hon. Member's motion?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, before I read the motion I wish to make a request and it is that before you give your ruling, you may kindly give me an opportunity of explaining myself.

Mr. Speaker : I will give the hon. Member an opportunity if it is necessary to do so. I can't commit anything at this stage.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, the Chair should only take a decision after giving audience to the hon. Members.

Mr Speaker ; That was why I wanted the hon. Member to see me outside the Chamber.

Mehta Ranbir Singh ; Sir, I read my motion ;—

> In the opinion of this House the hon Chief Minister is not justified in misquoting a speech of an hon. Member of the House and using libellous and defamatory statement against a head of a department of the Government, namely, the Director of Public Instruction and it is, therefore, resolved that the portion of the hon Chief Minister's speech dated 20th March, concerning the Director, Public Instruction, be expunged from the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker : It is not a privilege motion. It is a substantive motion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker : It does not become a privilege motion by your merely saying "No, Sir." The hon. Member has put it in the form of a resolution, a substantive motion which cannot be moved except with due notice as required under the rules.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : It is the privilege of every Member that his speech should be properly recorded and it should not be misquoted.

Mr. Speaker: I have given my ruling and the matter ends there.

SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I move—

> That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned till 2 p. m. on Monday, 26th March, 1951.

Sir, forty four hon. Members of this House have expressed a desire in writing that tomorrow should be observed an off day on account of Holi Festival and in deference to their wish I have moved this motion.

Mr. Speaker : Motion moved—

> That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned till 2 p.m. on Monday, 26th March, 1951.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have stood up to oppose this motion. It is a pity that time is not being properly utilized by the Leader of the House. In the first place the Assembly session lasts for a very short time during the year and secondly when it is held, much of the time is wasted. I very well understand that the hon. Ministers and the hon. Members have a very strong desire to make merry (रंग रलीआं मनाना ਰੰਗ ਰਲੀਆਂ ਮਨਾਨਾ) during the Holi festival but they should not be oblivious of the fact that they owe a responsibility to the public whom their enjoyment is to cost a good deal.

Minister for Labour On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member should not use the words : (रग रलीआं मनाना ਰੰਗ ਰਲੀਆਂ ਮਨਾਨਾ) in connection with the Holi festival. The meaning of these words is much different from what the hon. Member means.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I don't think I have said anything objectionable but I shall not insist on using these words I only wished to point out that no meetings of the House were to be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the hon. Members could have enjoyed to their heart's content during these three days. They do not appear to have any justification for a fourth day. We have some very important work still pending and we should try to do justice to that. Everybody complains that we do very little work. Many of the Heads of the Departments whom I have happened to meet have made the same remark. Even His Excellency in his Address has said that this House had not done a proper amount of work in the field of legislation. So in view of these things, I feel that we should utilize the 22nd of this month for useful work instead of enjoying a holiday. In case 40 or 50 hon. Members wish to enjoy on this day they may be allowed to go but work should not be allowed to suffer in their absence. As a matter of fact when this question came up in the party meeting the hon. Chief Minister should have explained things to the hon. Members.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: On a point of order, Sir. Can the hon. Member refer to party meetings in this House?

Metha Ranbir Singh: The hon. Chief Minister should have realized that so much of legislation work is pending. The main work which the Assembly has to transact is that of legislation. In view of the fact that declaring of tomorrow as an off-day would mean a huge sum of expenditure in the shape of travelling allowance of Members, I hoped that such a motion would not be moved by the Leader of the House. I am sorry that he has not done justice to this State by bringing forward this motion. I, therefore, oppose this motion and shall request the hon Chief Minister to withdraw it. He should tell those hon. Members who wish to go to their homes that they are at liberty to do so, but the Honse must meet for transacting important business.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Sir, since the commencement of the current Budget Session of the Assembly, the non-offical days have suffered heavily at the hands of the Government. On two occasions the hon. Chief Minister made motions for the transaction of Government business on such days now a similar request has been made at the initiative of about forty four Members of his party. They have demanded that the 22nd March be

declared an off-day on account of Holi. I find that the non-official days are taken away for one reason or another. The present motion is, therefore, highly objectionable and it amounts to an encroachment on the right of Members to transact non-official business. On the one hand, it is said that our State is faced with financial difficulties and on the other hand tomorrow is being unnecessarily declared an off-day. If on an average each Member gets sixty rupees for going to his home during these days, it would mean an expenditure of about five thousand rupees. Moreover, the Assembly work will suffer on this account. I find that the Members of this House are always anxious to go away from Simla during the Sessions.

Mr. Speaker : No reflection on Members, please.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Instead of passing a motion of this kind, we should set an example to the public that we are prepared to do the maximum work for the lowest remuneration. I shall, therefore, request the hon. Chief Minister to withdraw this motion so as to enable us to transact some non-official business also.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*) **:** Sir, when I rise to oppose this motion it should not be thought that I am going to do so only on account of my pending Bill. In the case of almost every non-official day, a motion is brought forward that private members' business be not transacted on it for one reason or another. We expected to have tomorrow as the second non-official day during the current Session but now this also is being taken away. The Chief Minister is feeling happy over the fact that he has brought this motion at the instance of forty-four members of the Congress Assembly Party, but I know that he also has a hand in this affair. I know him for the last seven years. If he does not wish a certain thing to be done he knows how not to do it. If he so desired, he could tell the hon. Members who wanted to have tomorrow as an off-day that they could go if they liked but a meeting of the Assembly must be held. Mr. Speaker, you must have noticed that a large number of Members are usually absent from the House. It is on very rare occasions that all the Members are present in the House. It is, therefore, not correct to say that the hon. Chief Minister would have acted against the wishes of the majority of Members if he had not brought the present motion He should not forget his duty towards the public at large. If the Chief Minister had thought it necessary to have tomorow as an off-day on account of Holi, he would not have treated it as a working

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day in the programme already issued by him. According to the original programme, non official business has to be transacted to-morrow. He might say that he has nothing to do with the demand by the majority of Members, but I know that he is as much responsible for it as other hon. Members. With these words I oppose this motion.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish (Ambala Division, Landholders): Sir, I have heard a part of the speech of Shrimati Sita Devi and I have been astonished to see that she has opposed this motion which has been brought before the House on the initiative of 44 hon. Members of this House. I am surprised that people should get up and oppose a motion merely for the sake of opposition.

Mr. Speaker: No reflection, please.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Shrimati Sita Devi wants to bring in her Bill and it is perhaps on that account that she has opposed this motion. Sir, according to our ancient culture and tradition the festival of Holi is of great importance. It looks as if my hon. Sister does not take part in religious rites and this important festival which signifies happiness of a home, which she wants to wreck by bringing in her Bill—(*Laughter*) is of no significance to her. She being an urbanite does not, perhaps, know that this festival is a herald of harvesting season and it is on this happy day when we begin to cut crops and bring prosperity to the country.

Pandit Jiwan Lall: And thus help the Grow-More-Food campaign.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish: Certainly it does help the Grow-More-Food campaign. With these few remarks, I whole-heartedly support the motion moved by the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*): Sir, I want to read the letter on the basis of which I have brought this motion before the House. It runs as follows :

> Sir, in view of the fact that on Thursday the 22nd March, is Holi and Holi Puja takes place on that day, therefore, we the undersigned members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly request you to please declare that day a holiday or at least an off-day for the Assembly.

Amoung the signatories to this letter, at number 8 is Sardar Jaswant Singh Duggal. After that is Sardar Rattan Singh. Then follow the

signatures of Sant Narinder Singh and the Leader of the Opposition, Chaudhri Suraj Mal.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know, Sir, if you have recognised Chaudhri Suraj Mal as the Leader of the Opposition ?

Chief Minister : Mehta Ranbir Singh came to me and he put before me the demand that I should recognize the party of 7 hon. Members as the Opposition Party. I, then, consulted you and you were of the opinion that the party be recognized. We requested hon. Chaudhri Suraj Mal to open the debate on Budget because he was the Leader of the Opposition. Sir, there are on this letter the signatures of other hon. Members also. If they say that they want to celebrate any of their festivals, it becomes my duty to pay attention to that request. It has been said that we waste the public finances. I fail to understand how this holiday has affected the public finances. If 22nd had not been a holiday, there would have been holidays on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of March and in that case the hon. Members who wanted to go to their respective places would have gone. By declaring 22nd March also an off-day, no further expenditure has been incurred. I think this was said only to tell the people that those hon. Members who criticize are more mindful of the public finances. Again, Sir, it was said that no day had been given for the non-official Members' Bills. But I would like to point out that the hon. Lady Member has not given notice of any new Bill except the Bill which has already been introduced. She is very anxious about the Bill which she has alreay introduced. The report of the Select Committee on that Bill is already out of order. For that a new motion shall have to be brought Except this Bill there is no other Bill in the name of the hon. Lady Member. So no business of hers has been postponed by declaring 22nd March as an off-day. She herself once told me that she was not anxious to get the Bill passed. She said she wanted to see as to how many hon. Members are in its favour.

Mr. Speaker : No reflection, please.

Chief Minister : Sir, so far as I am cencerned, whether 22nd is an off-day or not, it does not affect me prsonally. I shall remain here and my family is also here. Even if that day is not an off-day, I shall be able to celebrate the festival with my family if I so desire.

[Chief Minister]
It does not, therefore, affect me personally whether 22nd is a holiday or not. But it becomes my duty to accept the request of other hon. Members if they say that they want to go home to celebrate the festival. If the hon. Sister does not want to go, she is free to remain here. It has been stated in the letter received by me that the hon. Members want to celebrate Holi with their families. The hon. Members who do not want to rejoice on this occasion will also be free to follow their own pursuits without any hinderance. If I am not to bring even such a motion which is favoured by a great majority of the House, it is not good. I have to grant the request of the hon. Members. I, therefore, submit that the House should accept this Motion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Sir, on a point of personal explanation. I met you and made a request to you. But you have not given any answer to that so far. It is not correct for you to say that a certain Member is the Leader of the Opposition unless we have known the fact.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. In future, I will not recognise the Opposition.

Shrimati Sita Devi: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The hon Chief Minister said in his speech that I told him that I did not want that the Bill must be passed. He has said that in a wrong way. I told him that he should not put that Bill off on lame excuses and he should let it be brought before the House so that the people might know the views of the hon. Members. They should know which hon. Members hold progressive views.

Mr. Speaker: Question is—

> That the Assembly at its rising this day shall stand adjourned till 2 p.m on Monday, the 26th March, 1951.

The motion was carried.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

CHARGES ON IRRIGATION ESTABLISHMENT

Chief Minister: I move—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1, 47, 27, 400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52, in respect of Charges on Irrigation Establishment.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1, 47, 27, 400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52, in respect of Charges on Irrigation Establishment.

Shri Ram Sharma: (Southern Towns, General, Urban) (*Hindi*): I move—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 1001—

Sir, the demand for Rs. 1,47,27,400 as charges on Irrigation Establishment is before the House. I take this opportunity of giving expression to my views on this matter. This expenditure on establishment of Irrigation Department consists of five important items :—

1. Expenditure on permanent establishment including allowances etc.
2. Expenditure on Bhakra Project,
3. Expenditure on Ferozepore canal (Harike) Project.
4. Expenditure on Tube well project in Jagadhri.
5. Expenditure in connection with Grow More Food Campaign.

The House has before it the Demand for the payment of salaries, allowances and other establishment expenditure in connection with these five items. In this connection, what I wish to say here is that the Department of Irrigation is so important that for this State no other department has such importance. His Excellency the Governor in his Address and hon. Chief Minister in his Budget Speech laid emphasis on the fact that it is on the success of this department and on the completion of the new projects that the progress and prosperity of our State depends. The importance of this department lies in the permanent staff and new projects that have been undertaken by it. But, I am afraid, that in our Cabinet there seems to be a lack of appreciation of the vital necessity of giving more time and attention towards irrigation. In this connection, it will not be out of place to note that our hon. Chief Minister is keeping too many portfolios to himself. If I am not wrong the total number of portfolios which he is holding is greater than the total of the portfolios held by the rest of hon. Ministers. So far as irrigation is concerned, in my opinion, it should have gone to an hon. Minister who is not burdened with any other work. It is then only that full justice can be done to it. Otherwise the work of irrigation suffers. But, Sir, you see that our Government has thought it fit to give such a light portfolio as labour to one hon. Minister while irrigation has been given to an hon. Minister who besides being the Chief Minister of the State is holding about a dozen

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portfolios. My submission is that the Government does not look to the higher interests of the State in this matter. In other countries of the world the Chief Ministers devote their time to general supervision and take no portfolios. In India we find that the same practice is followed in other States, of course, with some exceptions here and there. But if we look to the conditions in the Punjab, her interests demand that the Chief Minister should have only one portfolio. If he were to keep Irrigation only, the work would not suffer and the new schemes would not get delayed. Due to the new projects which our Government has in hand it is the prime need of the day that more attention should be paid to this department. But what we find is that no justice is being done to it. It is my earnest desire and I want to bring it to the notice of the Government that more attention be paid towards Irrigation because it is department which has been neglected. As a matter of fact no other portfolio should be allotted to an hon. Minister who holds the portfolio of Irrigation. Although after the partition of the Punjab we have very few canals left with us on this side of the border, yet on account of the projects like Tube Wells and Bhakra etc. there is still important work in hand which requires the whole-hearted attention of a Minister. Sir, my complaint is that the Government is not doing that. In this connection it will not be out of place to say something about the Parliamentary Secretaries who can be utilized for such work. I don't wish to criticize them wholesale at this time. But what I want to suggest is that at least for Irrigation Department some of them can do useful work. The other day when a question was asked in the House, the Government did not clearly state what work the Parliamentary Secretaries are required to do. It gave a vague reply. Well, if the Government does not wish to give any other work to the Parliamentary Secretaries, at least, it should consider that the Parliamentary Secretaries can be usefully employed in attending to such important departments as Irrigation because the hon. Ministers themselves are unable to pay full attention, being busy in other affairs.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : May I remind the hon Speaker that not a single Minister is present in the House to listen to the discussion ?

Mr. Speaker : I wish that the hon. Ministers should be present in the House.

Shri Ram Sharma : I draw your attention to the incident in the Parliament the other day............

Mr. Speaker : I know what the hon. Member wants to say. He need not repeat.

Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, it is a disrespect to the House that when the Budget is being discussed the Ministers should not be present. How would the Ministers like, if all the Members left the Chamber when Ministers rose to speak. I request the hon. Speaker to exercise his influence, moral as well as official, to make the Ministers feel their esponsibility in this matter.

Mr Speaker : I think the hon. Ministers would realize what has been said by the hon. Member and I do wish that they should be present in the House, especially that Minister whose Demand is being discussed. Yesterday I remarked that hon. Members who criticized the Government should be present when a reply is being given by the Minister concerned. I expect that both sides would try to follow the healthy convention of the Parliament and of this House.

Shri Ram Sharma : Well, Sir, I was submitting that so far as the Parliamentary Secretaries were concerned, none of them has been entrusted with any work. Their posts are more or less *sine cure* and that is why they have been subjected to a scathing criticism both inside and outside the House. But I feel that since the Irrigation Deparment is quite unwieldy, the Parliamentry Secretary attached to the hon. Minister-in-charge should be given some work or powers to deal with the affairs of this Department.

Now I would like to make a few observations with regard to the Bhakra Dam Scheme. I may, however, point out that the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister is almost silent on this subject of vital importance, except that a mention has been made of a provision in the Budget to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with the staff required for the Control Board. So far as the Address of His Excellency the Governor is concerned, no important refernce worth the name has been made about this major Irrigation Project. The only worth-mentioning activity of the Control Bord for the Bhakra Project, that I have come across, is that negotiations with American experts are in progress. Another fact that has come to our notice in this connection is that a deputation of officers had gone aborad to bring expert engineers for the execution of this scheme. I am not aware whether that deputation actually succeeded in recruiting the requisite foreign experts or simply came back after having noted their addresses.

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All this indicates that the speed with which the work of the Bhakra Project is being carried on is far from satisfactory. Then, much stress has been laid by the Governor in his Address on the fact that the Control Board has decided to get the work executed through the department instead of giving a contract to some foreign firm of Engineers. My submission, in this respect, is that I am not enamoured of the fact that the contract must necessarily go to some foreign firm, nor would any Indian find favour with this idea. But I have serious misgivings whether completion of the project through the department will be brought about successfully in the stipulated time. I feel that there is no harm if the Bhakra Scheme materializes with the help of foreign experts. When foreign countries have no objection to the extension of technical aid to us, then we, too, should not entertain any objection to accepting it. People want its early completion, no matter by what means. Then, I may submit that I had an opportunity to visit the place where Bhakra Dam work is being carried on to see things at close quarters. I cannot pronounce any expert opinion on it but I can safely say from what I saw, and from the reports of the Government on the subject, that the endeavours of the department do not hold out any bright hope that the project will be succesfully completed in time. Since the policy regarding the execution of the scheme by the Control Board has been decided in favour of the department, it will be seen later on whether a right decision had been taken in this connection or not. But as I have already stated, the people fervently desire that the Bhakra Dam Project may be completed as early as possibie, no matter through what agency. I would, however urge upon the Government to see that the department does not fall into inaction or gets slack in the execution of this work upon which the future of our State depends so much. Then, Sir, I am fully aware of the fact that the only source for financing the Bhakra scheme is the Central Government which advances loans to us for this purpose. Since we entirely depend upon loans, so far as this particular scheme is concerned, I think, all our efforts should be directed to securing the same from the Central Government, which should be prevailed upon to give priority to this Project over others in the matter of advancing loans. But I am constrained to remark that our Government is not shouldering the same amount of responsibility as it should have, because from the very inception this project has primarily been meant for providing irrigation facilities to the Punjab and particulary to the Haryana Prant. It was never known before whether there would be other Governments also who would be co-sharers in the fruits of this scheme.

But what do we find now? We see that gradually this scheme has slipped out of the hands of this Government and now it has a nominal control over the formulation of any policy regarding this project. The Central Government, which provides funds for this purpose, makes our Government agree to any condition which it desires to impose upon us. And there is no denying the fact that our Government meekly submits to the terms offered by the Central Government. The other day my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh rightly remarked that the record of this Government has been gradual abdication of its legitimate powers in favour of the Central Government. As a result of this, Pepsu and Rajisthan Governments have been getting increased amount of share in the control of the project. Naturally the expectations of the people that Punjab would receive a larger amount of water supply for irrigation purposes have been damped.

Then, Sir, I doubt very much whether the Control Board appointed by the Government of India will succeed in accomplishing this task. The first act of this Board, as I have already stated, has been the despatch of deputation to fish up expert engineers from foreign lands. The other one is the issuing of the report that negotiations with American Engineers are in progress. Whereas our State is closely connected with the Bhakra project, the hon. Chief Minister has been meticulously careful not to make any important reference to it in his Budget speech. Of course, he has mentioned one thing and that is this:-

> We have found it necessary that the interest charges on the Bhakra Nangal and the Ferozepore Canal Projects should be charged to the Capital cost of these projects instead of being met concurrently from State revenues.

Besides this, he has avoided to say a single word by way of explanation about the levy of betterment fee which finds a comfortable place in the Governor's address. This betterment fee is to be charged from all those zamindars whose lands will be benefited by the irrigation facilities supplied from canals under the Bhakra Scheme. I consider it quite a novel innovation and it does not find favour with the public. In this connection I may point out that the Unionist Government also undertook excavation of certain canals and provided irrigation facilities to the people but never imposed any betterment fee except abiana. But here we witness strange things. A betterment fee in addition to abiana is sought to be levied on the zamindars of this State,

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receiving water supplies from the Bhakra Project. I submit that the proposed levy is unjustified and uncalled-for. Our zamindars are already being crushed under the weight of innumerable taxes and there appears to be no justification for burdening them with another tax in the form of a betterment fee. It may be mentioned that canals are a commercial proposition and the most remunerative proposition. In a few years, the returns make good the capital cost and then they become a source of permanent income as they no longer remain a burden on the Exchequer. I, therefore, fail to understand the object of levying this betterment fee when Bhakra Dam Project is ultimately going to repay the total cost in a number of years. Besides, there is another important matter which we should not lose sight of. India is today faced with an acute scarcity of foodgrains and the Central Government is making every endeavour to encourage Grow More Food Campaign, as it is incurring crores of rupees for importing foodgrains. Under the circumstances, the Government should refrain from imposing this fee, rather it should offer inducement to the zamindars by a liberal supply of water to them. I, therefore, feel that before taking this step Government should ponder how far and to what extent it is advisable to burden the zamindars with additional taxes.

Some mention has already been made about it in His Excellency the Governor's Address and also in the Budget speech. Most of the people in the rural areas particularly the cultivators may not like the proposed levy of betterment fee but I have no doubt that if the imposition of this fee results in any good or in other words if it gives them hopes of a better future, then they will have no objection to bear this extra burden.

Now about the Tube-well Scheme. According to this scheme, the Irrigation Department hopes to make up the deficiency of canal water by pumping out water from the tube-wells at Jagadhri As far as I remember, this scheme has been discussed here during the Budget sessions of the last two years. But I have to say with deep regret that there has not been any marked progress in the implementation of this scheme. According to this scheme, 256 tube-wells are to be installed in this area. Out of 256 tube-wells of this scheme, contract for 225 tube-wells has been given to a firm and the remaining 31 tube-wells are to be installed departmentally. Out of these 31 tube-wells, only 7 have so far been completed and

the speed with which the rest of these are being installed is so slow that it might take a long time to complete these. So far as the installation of the tube-wells which have been given on contract is concerned, I do not know if this work has been started by the firm. It is said that the remaining tube-wells which are to be installed departmentally would be completed by the end of this year. It is hoped by the Government that these 256 tube-wolls when completed would make up the deficiency of water existing at present in the canals. But I regret to say that the speed with which this scheme is being worked is so slow and discouraging that it will not be possible to complete even 20 tube-wells by the end of this year. My hon. Friends know it full well that there are non-perennial cannals in the district of Rohtak. It is said that by rushing water from these 256 tube-wells to these non-perennal canals, it would be possible to convert the latter into perennial canals. But the latest position regarding the work in connection with the scheme is this that in spite of the oft-repeated reminders even one-tenth of the promised tube-wells have not been completed so far. The slackness with which this scheme has been worked has already caused much disappointment and discontentment amongst the people. Here I cannot do without saying that any further delay in completing these tube-wells in time will, I am sure, result in shaking faith of the people in the Government.

So far as the Hariana Prant which comprises the districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal is concerned it is clear from the various reports of the Government published from time to time that water for irrigation purposes would be made available to the people of these districts. As a matter of fac, people of this Prant are looking forward to the day when their hopes and expectations would be fulfilled. But it has been experienced that Government takes much time to complete any work which at the very out set it undertakes to complete in as short a time as possible. It has been made clear by the Government more often than once that water would be made available to people of these four districts for irrigating their lands. But I would like to submit that in the district of Rohtak an area of about 10½ lakh acres of land, which it is said, would be irrigated through canals and tube-wells, is such that in spite of these schemes, embarked upon by the Government, large portions of it would continue to remain without water. So far as

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the district of Hissar is concerned, it is said that the Bhakra scheme when completed, would irrigate about 50 lakh acres of land. So far as the remaining districts are concerned, I don't think there is any possibility of any water supply being made available to the people of these areas. The people of the Rohtak district have come to this painful conclusion that they will not be able to get water even after the Bhakra Dam scheme is completed. Further, we are also told that the water from the tube-wells at Jagadhri would be added to the water of the canals. So far as the Bhakra Dam Seheme is concerned, the people of this district who have been promised water have been greatly disappointed as they feel that the water is going to be utilized by the other States too.

Now about the Irrigation Department. It is a very important and a very useful department. It goes without saying that our State cannot make any progress without the help of this department. But I have to say with deep regret that in certain respects it is not doing any substantial work. Instances in this connection are not wanting In the last year's budget, provision was made for draining out water from certain areas in one of the tehsils of my district. The water during the rainy season accumulates at these places as a result of which it becomes well-nigh impossible for the people to bring their land under cultivation. I brought this matter to the notice of the Government more often than once. Last year, Government sanctioned some amount for draining out the rainy water from these areas. In fact Government deputed some officials to take stock of the situation on the spot. At that time people were convinced that Government had already taken upon itself the responsibility and that it would lose no time in draining out the water. But I find from the Budget that this item has been dropped by the Government. It is mentioned therein that the people of that tehsil should themselves arrange to drain out water and that Government was not prepared to undertake this work as it would cost more than what was estimated last year. In this connection, it was estimated that it would not cost more than Rs. 23,000 to complete this work. On the one hand, provision was made in the last year's Budget for draining out water with a view to removing the genuine grievances of the local population, and on the other the same scheme has been dropped by the Government without any cogent reasons. I have not been

able to understand why your Government has failed to fulfil the promises already held out by it to the people of this tehsil by undertaking to drain out the rainy water. Now the people are asked to engage their own labour to complete this work. This is how promises held out to people to remove their grievances are fulfilled. After all, whatfor does the Government require the sum of Rs. 1½ crores which is clear from the demand, now before the House, when it cannot spend anything to remove tne genuine grievances of the people?

So far as my own district is concerned the Government had approved of two schemes for drainage and had sanctioned money but now those schemes have been dropped. Besides, a new department known as Partition Organisation has been set up by the Government to settle claims of land between India and Pakistan. The Government has set apart Rs. 82,000 for this department. I think this sum is out of all proportion to the amount of work to be done by this department. Hardly five or six cases might have been settled by this department. The Government will be well-advised to curtail this expenditure. I cannot help remarking that there has been a mushroom growth of new offices which are practically doing no useful work. A department has been functioning since 1949 to make certain amendments in the Canal Drainage Act. The progress of work in this direction has been very slow and it takes several months to amend an Act. This department if it continues to work at snail's pace will manage to have its life extended for four or five years more. There is hardly any justification for continuance of such a state of affairs in this attenuated State. So far as the Western Jumna Canal is concerned, temporary posts have been created which will involve an expenditure of about Rs. 2½ lakhs. This expenditure also appears to be excessive. Two circles have been formed but we have to see whether with the formation of two circles and creation of all sorts of higher posts there has been corresponding progress in the work. But I can say with confidence that the results are not commensurate with the amount of money spent. There is no denying the fact that Irrigation Department is a very useful and important department as on it depends our agri cultural prosperity. But I regret to say that this department seems to have gained special reputation as here there is corruption in an organized form. Leaving out the officers on the top, there is corruption, nepotism and favouritism from top to bottom. When any effort is made to uproot corruption from this department, its officers

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make strong protests against making interference in this department. From amongst the Central Government's departments, Railway Department has gained notoriety for corrupt practices and Civil Supplies Department in our State occupies the same position in the matter of corruption. But I am sorry to say that P. W. D. has surpassed all the departments in corruption. I would not like to mention the percentage as my hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh Kairon had done sometime back but I cannot help speaking out the truth that there is corruption among a large majority of the people in this department. I have been taking a keen interest in uprooting corruption in the various deparments of the Government since the time I have been associated with public life. I am also associated with the Anti-corruption Committee being the Chairman of its sub committee which consists of non-official members. When I was not a Member of this Assembly, even then I used to bring to the notice of the Government complaints of corruption. Sometime back, I brought to the notice of the higher officers of this department the way in which officers indulged in corrupt practices in this department. But I am sorry to say that no one in this department seemes to be keen on uprooting corruption. As a matter of fact, these officers like that the present practices of corruption should continue undisturbed. Sometime back, the hon. Minister incharge of Irrigation accompanied by the Chief Engineer visited my district. I also met them by chance. I had a talk with the Chief Engineer who has retired now and made a complaint of corruption in his department. I mentioned specific instances and the names of the officers who were involved. He showed a bit of resentment on my making such a complaint and asked me if I was prepared to assume full responsibility for making such a complaint. He also told me that action will be taken against me if those allegations were found to be wrong. I made it clear to him that I would never make any complaint unless I was fully satisfied about it. In case he challenged the veracity of my statement I was prepared to suffer any punishment but at the same time if the allegations after enquiry were found to be true it was reasonable that he (Chief Engineer) should also be taken to task for lightly brushing aside my complaint. He declined to accept any punishment for himself and enquired in detail all the allegations of corruption against the officers.

Not only in this case but in several other cases I was disappointed to find that the high officers of the department are not at all

earnest about putting an end to corruption, I would also say, Sir, that there is more corruption prevalent among the staff of the Irrigation Department employed on the construction of the Bhakra Dam than among its regular staff and there is no secret about this fact. I wonder if favouritism, nepotism and corruption continue, how shall we able to complete our projects such as the Bhakra Dam? Now I would like to quote a few words from this printed hand-bill which I think every hon. Member of the House must have seen by this time.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Has he placed the hand-bill on the Table of the House ?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member may please wind up.

Shri Ram Sharma : But, Sir, have you fixed any time-limit ? Is it not customary to allow more time to one who initiates discussion ?

Mr. Speaker : But that doesn't mean that he may go on speaking for full hours.

Shri Ram Sharma : But, Sir, I have not taken even one-fourth of that period. I had just started giving some concrete information as to how corruption has become difficult to put an end to in this Department.

Mr. Speaker : But you have already said enongh in a general way.

Shri Ram Sharma : But, Sir, that is not sufficient. So far as Overseers are concerned, the hon. Chief Minister has stated that their case is in the Finance Department. My sympathy is with them in so far as their demand for a better grade of pay is concerned because to give the worker an adequate wage for his work I regard as one of the effective methods of checking the tendency towards corruption. there is another grievance of the Overseers employed on the Bhakra construction work which I consider quite legitimate. This is in regard to the method of promotion. To decide this matter on the reports of the immediate superiors is in my opinion a pernicious principle which results in extending the scope of corruption. The preponderating volume of opinion is in favour of promotion on the basis of seniority and I also feel that this principle will in actual practice prove salutary

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and create inclination among the officials to work in an efficient and honest way.

Now I give a very pertinent instance which will show how the officers themselves are encouraging corruption. When the Chief Engineer was on tour in Rohtak district ...

Mr. Speaker : But I think no defamatory statement will be made.

Shri Ram Sharma : No, Sir, I am not going to tell the name of the officer in question.

Mr. Speaker : But you will say in a manner that everybody will be able to guess it.

Shri Ram Sharma : I connot say about a very clever person but I can assure you that I will do my best not to let anyone have an inkling into the identity of the officer in question. I was saying, Sir, that when one of the Chief Engineers was on tour in Rohtak among other things that I told him were the facts of a case of a very serious nature. This case related to the conduct of an Overseer and I took down all the complaints in detail that I had received against him and placing all the material before the Chief Engineer asked him as to what he thought of it. He replied that the material was so much that if even one-tenth of it could be proved true it would be possible to hang twelve persons on its basis. *(Laughter)*. But it is with very great regret that I have to say that ultimately nothing came out of it The case was referred to the officer who was under the ules of the Department competent to receive such a complaint and as soon as it reached him frantic efforts were started to efface the evidence. I had written that such and such things could be recovered from that Overseer's house and that fictitious entries could be found in such and such register but this information was utilized not for making a surprise visit but forewarning the official concerned to destroy the evidence. Among the allegations, there were many more of an equally serious nature such as embezzlement, payment of wages to those who had done no work at all, preparing false T. A. account, accepting bribes and even of indulging in immoral acts in the P. W. D. Rest House of which my sense of decency does not permit me to make a detailed mention. I was given to understand that a thorough investigation

would be made into all these investigations but after some time to my great disappointment I received a letter from the Chief Engineer that the allegations had been found baseless and that the case had been filed.

Sir, I challenge the hon. Chief Minister to undertake to start the inquity in this case afresh and I take the responsibility of furnishing full evidence and proving to the hilt all the allegations against the Overseer in question. The pity of the matter is that the officers themselves are hand in glove with the corrupt personnel of this Department and have a share in the money made by corrupt practices. How can an officer entrusted with the work of investigation in connection with a case of corruption be expected to act in an honest manner when the 'accused' is none else but his own agent ? This is, Sir, the greatest hurdle in the eradication of corruption from this Department. One official is acting as an agent of the other and so on. Corruption is thus too deep-rooted to be eradicated easily. When the officers themselves are party to it how can they let any case against a subordinate official be proved. An ordinary peon employed in the canal division office at Ferozepur has many a time complained to the Government about the prevalence of corruption among the whole staff of the Irrigation Department at Ferozepur but no heed is paid to his letters. I myself wrote to the Chief Secretary suggesting that the services of Special Inpuiry Agency be utilized to check corruption in this Department but all my efforts have been in vain. The result is that the people are feeling greatly discouraged and no inclination is left in them to make complaints against the corrupt officials of this Department.

I would go to the length of saying that this Department has turned corruption into a fine art. Not only efforts are made to suppress the evidence as soon as a complaint is received but no stone is left unturned to ascertain the name of the contractor responsible for 'leaking' the information to the complainant.

Whenever I bring these complaints to the notice of the Government officers they somehow manage to detect my informers and action is taken against them. This fact is greatly to be deplored. Where action is taken against the informers corruption amongst the officers is allowed to continue. Sometime back a contractor was good enough to tell me all about the corruption in the

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Irrigation Department and how it was being actually practised. Unfortunately I happened to verify all this from the Superintending Engineer who was once travelling with me in a train. He made necessary inquiries as to who could have told me all this. The Department somehow came to learn that such and such contractor had given me the information and the result was that the poor man's name was struck off the list of contractors. This is what can in no case be expected of any good Government. If this corruption and bribery is allowed to continue unchecked it may sound the death knell of this Government. It is in the interest of the Government itself that it should not allow it to exist in the form it is existing. If it cannot be rooted out altogether steps should at any rate be takan to reduce it. In the circumstances which prevail at present I do not think the Bhakra, the Nangal and other schemes are likely to bear any fruit. So I again request the hon. Ministers, the officers concerned and the very active Parliamentary Secretaries to be rather vigilant lest this Government also meets the fate which once threatened China and then overtook it.

Mr. Speaker: Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the demand be reduced by Rs. 100/-

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann: (Jullundur Division Landholders): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am much obliged to you for affording me an opportunity to make a few observations. To get the maximum out of land, it is very essential that the water supply should be to the fullest extent. The heavy crops which the West Punjab has got are due to the fact that the canal system there is of the highest order. Besides the land there is also very fertile. Unfortunately we lack both these advantages here. In spite of the best efforts of the Government we are not getting out of the land here as much as we should. The real prosperity will come to the State when the Bhakra and Nangal projects are completed. I was surprised to find that in the new expenditure no sum is made available for drainage purposes in Karnal. The system of drainage there is very defective. Last year when there were plenty of rains, the crops were damaged and wiped out. This thing is happening every year. Therefore drains there should be widened and those that are silted up must be cleared. Besides, new drains should be opened. There is also one more reason for this In Karnal district there is the danger of water-logging. So if the drainage system is not set right I am afraid the whole district will be completely

waterlogged very soon. The alarming feature is that the water-level over there is rising by one foot every year. I think it is high time that the Government and the Irrigation Department should see to it and apply the remedies seriously. There was a proposal, I do not know how far it has matured, that the water should be pumped by means of electricity. Since now there is electricity, because of the thermal plant which has recently been installed in Panipat, I do not think there will be any difficulty in starting this pumping work. The difficulty is that Government formulates so many schemes but does not give effect to them in practice It is of the utmost necessity that the pumping should be started as soon as possible.

Chaudhri Lahri Sing : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Minister should not converse with the gentlemen in the official gallery.

Mr. Chairman (Mehta Ranbir Singh) : It is not a point of order.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann: Government has not given impetus to the 'Grow More Food' campaign. Water is supplied during the monsoon season every year. I have seen one great defect in this. The water is given too late. In areas where paddy is sown, water should be given not in July but in June. What I noticed last year in Karnal district was that the water actually started coming from those temporary shoots in the third week of July. The best season to grow paddy is the month of June. That means that the water given in July is of no use. As a matter of fact, late sowing gives no result and I think it is better not to sow the crop if it is going to be sown so late. So I would request the Government to see that the water given is fully utilised and is given in time.

One thing which has astonished me and which has pained me to some extent is this. In Karnal there is 33 per cent, intensity of water which is given to the zamindars and in many cases the intensity is raised to 50 per cent When one outlet of a Rajbaha gets 33 per cent, the neighbouring outlet gets 50 per cent. intensity. I enquired of the reason and was informed that this 50 per cent. intensity was given to the Nawabs who used to live in Karnal whereas others used to get only 33 per cent. Now that Nawabs have left the place, I am surprised why this differential treatment is still being continued. I may warn the Government that the people are perturbed and dissatisfied at this differential treatment and they resent the step-motherly treatment. We are now in the era of independence. Our Constitution provides for equality of rights and privileges to all classes of people. So there is no

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reason why this differential treatment should continue as regards the supply of water. The sooner it is discontinued, the better would it be for the Government and for the people.

Sir, there is an amazing fact and that is that these temporary shoots which are given annually in connection with Grow-More-Food campaign are also given to such lands which are already getting 50% irrigation. That would mean that other owners are being given cakes and are also asked to eat them. It is most objectionable and I would earnestly request that these temporary shoots should not be given to those lands which are already getting 50% intensity and the Department should take speedy action to remodel them to bring all the outlets on the same level and the intensity of water should not be increased by 33%. With these remarks I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Hindi*); Mr. Chairman, while speaking about the Irrigation Department, my hon. Friend Shri Ram Sharma charged it with corruption. Other hon. Members also said similar things. One of the causes of this state of affairs was the loosening of iron hand in various Government departments after the departure of the British officers. With the going away of the Englishmen as well as of the Muslims, junior officers came to occupy very senior positions. If these persons had attained those senior positions in due course and after necessary experience, these things would not have come to pass. At the same time it will have to be admitted that we ourselves are responsible for these weaknesses. In the course of their speeches, the hon. Members threw the entire responsibility for these on the Ministers or the services, but as a matter of fact all of us are responsible for these. One of the reasons is this that after the departure of the British, it has become easy to approach Government officers. Relative of a certain person or the friend of another is holding one or the other responsible post. The hon. Members can approach and make requests in certain quarters. Ignoring all these weaknesses, we condemn either the Ministers or the services.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: We condemn all the three.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh: During the course of their speeches, the hon. Members dubbed various Government departments as corrupt. In this connection I am reminded of the case of Russia. History bears

testimony to the fact that when that country became free, it did not possess suitable engineers. It imported engineers from America and paid them fat salaries. The American engineers acted so honestly that as a result of their efforts, Russia is not only at par with other big powers of the world but it is ahead of them. In my opinion, if we make this kind of criticism of other departments, it would not be a bad thing, but to say that the Indian officers working in the Irrigation Department are not competent would not lead to their encouragement. After the departure of the British, the work done by our engineers on Nangal and Bhakra Projects is highly commendable.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : The British engineers were not more capable than our engineers.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : According to the latest estimates of expenditure to be incurred on Bhakra Project, there will be a saving of about four or five crores of rupees. If we do not show due regard for our officers, they will feel discouraged. My hon. Friend Shri Ram Sharma said that there was wholesale corruption in every Government Department. As this session is approaching its end, Panditji's disappointment goes on increasing.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : May I ask the hon. Member not to make such remarks ? The hon. Chairman should kindly prevent him from saying such things.

Mr. Chairman : I shall ask the hon. Member not to speak in this strain.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I wish to tell my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh that I am not making any remarks against any body. This is as much your State as that of the services or ours. When our country has become free after 1200 years of slavery, it would be a mistake on the part of anybody to think that all the people should become angels within three years. Some weaknesses, no doubt, exist in the Ministers, services as well as in us.

Mr. Chairman : That subject is not under discussion

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : When Panditji dubbed everybody in this department, right from the highest to the lowest official, as corrupt, may I know from him as to who are the persons who go and offer illegal gratification ?

It is our own brethren who give bribes. My brethren do so. In whose pocket does that money go ? The persons who accept the

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bribes are Punjabis. That money goes into the pockets of your and my relatives. I am afraid, Mr. Chairman, the people who live at Delhi, like our hon. ex-Chief Minister, know that the services here are better than those of the Export-Import Organization at Delhi.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member should be asked not to cast aspersions on other hon. Members of this House. He is casting aspersions right and left. The ex-Premier did not say any thing but the hon. Member is passing remarks against him.

Mr. Chairman : What were the specific words that he used?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : He said, Sir, that the services here were better than the Export and Import services at Delhi. Thereby he implied that there prevailed greater corruption over there than in our State.

Mr. Chairman : That is no point of order. I have already asked the hon. Member to be relevant.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : It would have been better if my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh had raised his objection after listening to my words. I have not said any words against Shri Sachar. I was submitting that the shortcomings should be enumerated and pointed out to the Services. But it should be borne in mind that the Members of the Services are also from amongst us. They are also Punjabis. The nation which has attained independence after 1200 years will naturally have weaknesses. But if the hon. Members were to start abusing the Services whole-sale and it has become a habit with them the Services will become weak and they would be demoralised. I, therefore, request the hon. Member respectfully and with full responsibility that our engineers have to build up this State and if there are weaknesses in the administration, it will be harmful to recount them here on the floor of the House and to unnecessarily criticize the the Services here. If the hon. Members had seen the Bhakra and Nangal Projects for themselves, and if they had cared to know as to how much material has been provided to this Department and how much finances have been made available to it by the Centre and with how great a difficulty necessary dollars for

the import of spare parts of the machinery are obtained from the Central Government, the hon. Members would have to admit that our engineers are very intelligent and honest. Mr. Chairman, still greater amount of work is possible if the hon. Members of this House were to stop complaining at Dehli that finances should not be given to this Government and it should not be given dollars.

Mr. Chairman : No reflection please.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I think the Chairman should stand up when he gives his ruling.

Mr. Chairman : Not necessarily.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Mr. Chairman, I do not mean to cast any reflection. Through you, Sir, I want to request the hon. Members of this House that it is our duty that in order to enable this Department to make further progress, we should co-operate with the Chief Engineers and other engineers. The day when Bhakra-Nangal Project is completed, the whole of Hariana Prant which is today barren, will become a flourishing colony.

Sardar Bachan Singh : These are all false hopes.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : My hon. Friend, Sardar Bachan Singh says that these are all false hopes. I do not know what ideal he has before him and what he wants to bring about. Things are going on inspite of shortcomings after the exit of the British. But if a Government desired by Sardar Bachan Singh is established, the running canals will be stopped.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Did you learn this from the astrologer?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I have consulted even that astrologer whom Shri Jai Parkash Narain consults. I, therefore, tell the hon. Member to take pity on this State and to change his attitude. The result will not be good, if we continue to criticize the Services and if we do not adopt a constructive attitude. This attitude will adversely affect the law and order. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar pointed out yesterday that there should be respect for the law, discipline in Services and confidence in the people.

Mr. Chairman : I find that the hon. Member is roaming about and not speaking to the motion. I would ask him to restrict himself to the demand before the House.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : Sir, I was submitting that the department of engineers alone can uplift this State. I have said whatever I had to say on the cut motion of Shri Ram Sharma.

In the end, I want to make two or three submissions. In the first place, I want to submit that for the last three years, lands of the zamindars are being acquired for the consturction of Bhakra canal. The zamindars are being charged also the land revenue for those lands. I would request the Government to pay compensation admissible under the rules, for the lands, to the zamindars as soon as possible and also to refund to them the land revenue for the period for which these lands have been acquired by the Government so that they may be able to do some other business or purchase land elsewhere if they so desire. Secondly, the earth for the Bhakra Canal is not being taken from the side of the Shivalak hills On the other hand, it is being taken from the side on which are zamindars' lands If this earth is taken form the side of the hills, the cultivable land can be saved. I would, therefore, request the Chief Engineer not to get earth from the land which is cultivable but to get it from the hill-side. Moreover if this is done, no compensation will have to be paid. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Sardar Bachan Singh : (Ludhiana Central, Sikh rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, I have to say many things in connection with this Demand But before I say anything I wish to pay a tribute to the ablility and skill of the engineers of our State. Punjab is proud of the fact that it has given birth to good engineers who not only served this State with ability but other States of India also. It is a matter of pride for us all. But it is regrettable that although we have such able engineers yet our work is not running satisfactorily. One of the reasons for this is that the hon. Minister who is holding the portfolio of Irrigation is not fit for that job. He does not know how to do this work and so the conditions are going from bad to worse.

The first thing that I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members in this connection is that as the Finance Secretary has stated on page XXX of the Explanatory Memorandum to the Budget (1951-52), the expenditure on establishment, leaving aside the capital account in joint Punjab, amounted to Rs. 1,88,81,000 while now although we have only one fourth of the canals left to us the expenditure on irrigation establishment (exculding Relief and Rehabilitation) is Rs. 70,04,000. In joint Punjab the area of irrigated land was one

lakh and forty thousand acres while now the area of irrigated land in Punjab (I) is only thirty lakh acres. The percentage of expenditure on Irrigation to total Revenue Receipts in joint Punjab was 7·56. But now while the area of irrigated land has been so much reduced the percentage is not less than 4·33. This in my opinion, is too much for our State to bear. In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to some of the suggestions made by the present Parliamentary Secretary Sardar Ajit Singh in 1940. In his speech on 29th March 1940 in the Assembly he said :–

> My first suggestion is that at present three Chief Engineers are working in the Punjab. I don't think that there is any necessity for three of them. In fact they are merely signing machines and practically do not do anything else I for one cannot bring myself up to believe that three Chief Engineers are needed. Only one can suffice.

But now in our State. Sardar Ajit Singh, who is in the habit of making inerruptions, does not see any harm in having three Chief Engineers. Again he said :—

> My second suggestion is, as was pointed out in a resolution moved in the House, that the posts of Commissioners and Superintending Engineers which are superfluous should be abolished altogether. In my opinion the only duty which the Superintending Engineers perform is that they act as positive hindrance in the working of the department. They, as a matter of fact, do not do any work. These are not my personal whims, but I can cite many examples in support of my contention.

> My third suggestion is that the circles of the Executive Engineers should be increased. The last land Retrenchment Committee report which was published in 1931 set down a circle of 430 miles of channels and about 300,000 of acreage of irrigated area for an Executive Engineer.

> My fourth suggestion is that there are certain allowances which were allowed to the officers in past but they are being continued even now. For example, there was an allowance known by the name of Jungle allowance.

These are the suggestions which Sardar Ajit Singh gave in 1940 and then said.

> Then there is a further point of importance. It is about the corrupt working of the department.

But we find that today the number of Superintending Engineers has ineased inrcstead of coming down. The circles of the Executive

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Engineers have become narrower. In fact, the department has been mishandled by those in power. The expenditure has increased so much that there is no other department of the Government which can account for such a large sum. If we realize how intimately the future of our State is connected with the department of irrigation we would have a cause for anxiety at this unnecessary increase in expenditure. As a matter of fact we should try to spend this money in a more useful way. In 1940 Mian Muhammad Nurrullah expressed his views on irrigation in the Assembly debates and quoting an extract from the Abiana Committee Report in support of his contention, he suggested that there should be a separate budget for irrigation. The extract which he quoted was:-

> We will further recommend that a separate irrigation budget should be prepared and presented to the council and the commitments of the Department of irrigation to contribute to the general finances of the province should be restricted in their extent and regulated on an intelligible basis as is done in the case of the Railway Budget in the Central Government.

At present there is even more acute need for putting this suggestion into practice. Crores of rupees are being spent on irrigation from capital account. But the hon. Minister is unable to exercise any control over its mode of spending He has no knowledge of such things and no separate account is available. As long as the accounts are not separated, just as in the case of the Railway accounts of the Central Government, the money spent on Irrigation will not yield the maximum fruit.

Another thing which I want to suggest is that the Irrigation and Building and Roads should be more closely related than at present. What I wish to point out in this connection is that in Punjab, as alse in joint Punjab, there is duplication of work in Irrigation and Revenue Departments on the one side and Irrigation and Buildings and Roads Departments on the other. As a result of this there is no activity worth the name on the Building and Roads side. My suggestion is that there is no need for separate Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers for Buildings and Roads. The capable Engineers of Irrigation Department can easily manage that side also. But the pity is that our hon. Minister does not understand these things. As a matter of fact he does not study such problems. I think in the interest of the State, expenditure can be reduced by removing this duplication.

Well, Sir, my submission is that the amalgamation of the Irrigation and Revenue branches of the Government will prove beneficial both from the point of view of administrative efficiency and economy of funds. But the pity of it is that the hon. Ministers neither pay any heed to the constructive suggestions that we put forward in this connection, nor do they themselves care to study facts on the subject Not only this. They can neither think nor have the capacity to think about useful things said on the floor of this House. I still go further and say that what to talk of giving careful attention and thought to our suggestions, they lack even the courage to hear facts. I would suggest that the Revenue and Irrigation branches be amalgamated, particularly where duplication of staff can be avoided. For instance amalgamation of Deputy Collectors with the Tehsildars, Zilladars with Qanugoes and Naib Tehsildars and patwaris of canal with those of Revenue and bringing them under direct control of Collectors, is bound to result in a considerable saving to the Government. I am of the opinion that this suggestion should be given a practical shape by the Government at its earliest, because ours is a poor State and we stand in need of every pie that we can save, for the purpose of improving the hard lot of the people. We can ill-afford to have the luxury of keeping duplicate establishments on account of our weak financial position. So it does not behove the Government to squander money where a saving can easily and usefully be effected. In this connection I would like to draw your attention to one of the recommendations made by a Retrenchment Committee of the Joint Punjab.

Mr. Chairman : I find that the hon. Members do not pay due attention to maintain the dignity of the House. They should not leave or resume their seats without paying due respect to the Chair.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Before I quote from the report of the Retrenchment Committee, I would make a mention of the remarks of Mian Mohammad Nurullah.

> In one word I may say that the said Report has recommended to the Government that if the Revenue Department is amalgamated with the Civil Department, the saving will be something like 19 lakhs of rupees. I wish the Government had tried this proposal even once. But it is a pity that the Government has been sleeping over this matter of vital importance.

I think if that Government kept sleeping over this important matter, than our Government is snoring, being quite unmindful of what the

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exigencies of the situation demand. Then it is laid down in that report as follows:-

> The amalgamation of the Canal Revenue Department (Deputy Collectors Zilladars, Munshies and Patwaris, etc.,) with ordinary Revenue Department is a question which has been drawing the attention of Government and the public for some time.

I think if the hon. Minister in charge had ever cared to read such useful recommendations, then surely some action had been taken by him to bring about amalgamation of the Irrigation and Revenue branches and thus a substantial saving, running into lakhs of rupees, would have accrued to the Government. But I am constrained to remark that our administration is being run in such a faulty manner and so much unnecessary expenditure is being incurred as would prove disastrous to the State.

Then, Sir, I have received several letters from my friends and they have expressed great concern over the Sidhwan Bet Canal. This canal is 27 or 28 miles long and when the able Engineers of the Irrigation Department undertook its excavation in December last, they made i a point of honour to make water available to the zamindars by April 15 of 1951. But now we find that the work is not being executed with the same speed and efficiency with which it had been started and there are serious apprehensions that the zamindars may not get the much needed and much awaited supply of water for the next crop, As you are aware, Sir, our country is suffering from acute scarcity of food grains and the Government of India is incurring colossal amounts of money on the import of food grains and every time it fixes one targe or the other to make the country self-sufficient in them. The opening of Sidhwan Canal is an effort towards grow more food campaign and meeting the deficit in food grains. This canal is expected to irrigate one lakh of acres of land which will be brought under cultivation. I would, therefore, request the Government to see that the water supply is made availble at the stipulated date of 15th April, 1951, otherwise any delay is bound to prove detrimental to the country. If the zamindars are prevented from sowing their crops this year for want of water supply, then the food grains which ought to have been produced this year, would be a total loss to the State. I hope that the Government would expedite the opening of this canal.

Then, Sir, I have to make a few observations with regard to the pamphlet, namely, 'Punjab on the March' in respect of Irrigation.

If a layman reads it, the impression he carries is that there is no dearth of water in the State of Punjab and that the zamindars must be possessing irrigation facilities in abundance. But actually if you peruse it carefully, as I have done, you will arrive at the contrary conclusion. I first take up the Ambala district. It is stated therein that the culturable commanded area in this district is 8,76,111 acres out of which 4,547 acres are irrigated by the Western Jamna Canal. It is expected that 90,000 acres will come under the irrigation of Bhakra canals. Then Babian canal will take up about 3 ,000 acres in this district. Besides, 2275 acres will receive irrigation from Main line Upper Western Jumna Canal. Apart from this the Tube Well schemes, the chances of materialisation of which are remote, expect to command an area of 2,20,000 acres of land. Despite all these schemes, actually existing and proposed to be executed, a large area of 1,00,789 acres will still be left for which no irrigation facilities are at present contemplated. From this it can well be seen that the Irrigation Department lags far behind in the matter of supply of irrigation facilities to the zamindars. I think the schemes for supply of water should have been chalked out and executed long ago. But it has remained inertia-stricken and I feel that it has been guilty of criminal negligence in this respect.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friends that in the whole of our country the largest crop of sugarcane is grown in our neighbouring State of U. P. Rice is also produced herel in abundance. I have in my possession the Report of the Ambala Cho Reclamation Committee. I have closely studied it and I have been pained to find that in the district of Ambala alone, chos have caused a considerable damage to an area of about 2 lakh acres of land. Similarly in the district of Hoshiarpur an area of 3 lakh acres has been damaged on account of chos, as is abundantly clear from the Statement of Objects and reasons of the Punjab Land Preservation (Amendment) Bill which was under the consideration of the House only a few days ago. I have also come to know from the Report that during the British Regime the area of cho-stricken land did not exceed 50 miles in length but now the position is this that an area of as many as 750 miles has been threatened by the cho menace. The rain-belt in our State extends from Ambala to Gurdaspur. It will be seen that in Bihar where there are sufficient rains, no arrangments whatsoever, have been made by the Government of this State to construct any canal projects as a result of which the people have been experiencing untold miseries and hardships in the matter

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of foodgrains. Sometimes we hear the floods threatening their rich fields and at times we hear the scarcity of water due to lack of rains. All these factors have been instrumental in the devastation of the crops. This is not all. The people of this State are not sometimes in a position to sow the 'Rabi' crops due to the non-availability of water. As a matter of fact they find it well-nigh impossible to sow any new crops. If our Government continues neglecting the three districts of Ambala, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur, I am afraid, the same calamities which have befallen the people of Bihar may be repeated here in these areas. It is really a pity that our Government should be anxious to provide water to the dry lands of Pepsu but neglect its own immediate requirements. Our Government has already spent crores on the Nangal projects. In the low lands of our State where we have more than 30 inches of rain, we require water for the crops especially at the time of sowing 'Rabi' crops. If water is made available to zamindars of these areas in time, I am sure, their 'Rabi' and 'Kharif' harvests can be saved from the devastation caused by floods. Moreover the zamindars would also be able to save those crops which do not mature due to lack of water.

I have gone through the pamphlet regarding the 'Grow More Food Campaign' in our State. So far as the cultivation of sugarcane in different districts of our State is concerned, I find that in the Ambala District the yield of 29,668 acres of land under sugarcane cultivation is 31, 191 tons and in Rohtak District the yield of 39,919 acres is 84,922 tons of sugarcane. If we compare the figures of these two districts we will find that the yield per acre of sugarcane should have been more in Ambala than in Rohtak but the case is quite the reverse and it is simply because water is made available in abundance to these areas in the Rohtak District as a result of which the yield of sugarcane has shot up to four times the yield in Ambala. In the District of Hoshiarpur only 25,678 tons of sugarcane is produced on 34,175 acres of land and in the district of Ludhiana the yield of 16,969 acres of land is 25,977 tons of sugarcane. It is crystal clear from this that the area under sugarcane cultivation in the district of Hoshiarpur is twice that of Ludhiana while the yield per acre of sugarcane of the latter is slightly more than that of the former. I do not know if the Chief Engineer has advised the Government to take some steps to remove such glaring contrasts. If he has given any suggestions in this connection to the Government then it is all for the best. I do not know whether our Government has acted upon the suggestions of the Chief Engineer in the interests of the 'Grow More Food Campaign'.

On page 7 of the Report of the Ambala Cho Reclamation Committee it is given :—

> In certain places it is possible to dam up a small stream at the point it debouches into the plains and use the water thus trapped for the irrigation of valuable crops like rice and sugarcane. They can be a great help in reducing the devastating floods.

Further, about the masonary dams, it is written on page 8 of the same Report :—

> It has been possible to reclaim barren lands to the extent of growing sugarcane and rice when they form fan shaped catchment area of a small stream by constructing a masonry dam across it.

Again we find on page 10 :—

> The Committee recommends that Government should bear the cost of cement, bricks, and skilled labour needed for such works. It should allow Rs 500/- per annum under this head.

Here I am reminded of an urdu adage which runs as under :—

खोदा पहाड़ और निकला चूहा ।

ਖੋਦਾ ਪਹਾੜ ਔਰ ਨਿਕਲਾ ਚੂਹਾ ।

Now about the Bhakra Dam Project. It has been stated that a Control Board has been set up to superintend, direct and control the construction of the Bhakra Dam Project. I have not been able to understand as to what has necessitated the Government to form this Board. It appears to me that it has been setup simply to make water available to Bilaspur, Pepsu and Rajasthan It is clear from the personnel of this Board that our Government has submitted itself to the decisions arrived at by the Central Government, Pepsu and Rajasthan. It is given on page 6 of the pamphlet regarding the new Projects :—

> The Bhakra Control Board consists of H. E. Shri Chandulal Trivedi, Governor of Punjab (Chairman), Shri A. N. Khosla, Consulting Engineer to the Government of India (Vice Chairman), Shri S. Ratnam, Joint Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Government Of India, Shri Sarup Singh, Chief Engineer and Secretary Bhakra Dam, Shri K. S. Malhotra, Secretary, Finance Department, Punjab, and one representative each of Pepsu and Rajasthan Governments nominated by the Ministry of States.

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Out of these seven members two belong to this State. His Excellency the Governor is not the chairman of the Board as Governor but in his private capacity. It is strange enough that there should be only two members of our State when 60% of the expenditure is borne by our State. There is no scheme of extension of irrigation and it is because of the fact that the Government lacks knowledge about matters connected with irrigation. There is about 30 inches of rainfall during the year which results in erosion of land in some districts like Ambala, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur. If the Government had taken steps to build small bunds it would have prevented erosion of land to a considerable extent. If such bunds have already been constructed in other States like Madras, Hyderabad and Mysore then there seems to be no reason why it should not prove an economical proposition in our State. But the pity is that the Irrigation Department is under the charge of a Minister who has no knowledege about irrigation. Whenever any discussion is made about the Irrigation Department he does not take any interest. (*At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair*). Sir, you will see how irrigation is carried on in our State. If you see the debates of 1940 you will find, Sir, what Mian Muhammad Nurullah said in the Punjab Assembly of pre-partitioned days.

> Here the facts and figures have been given about the relative increase in culturable commanded area and establishment charges. From these figures it will be clear that the culturable commanded area has not increased in the same progression in which the expenses of the Government have increased.

He quoted the following figures showing the relative increase in culturable commanded area and establishment charges.

Year	Area in acres	Establishment charges.
1910—11	13,823,934	37,13,655
1920—21	17,084,220	89,93,178
1925—26	17,075,0[illegible]6	90,90,984
1932—33	18,807,261	92,38,977

He then mentioned the cost per acre which is quoted below:-

Year	Cost per acre.
1910—11	1.02
1920—21	1.33
1925—26	1.57
1932—33	1.68

From the study of the above quoted figures it will be seen that the expenditure on establishment has been moving upward at a much quicker pace than the increase in the culturable commanded area. It would have been reasonable if with the increase in the establishment expenses there was increase in production and the culturable area commanded. But in our State efforts had been made to absorb all the engineers who had come from the West Punjab. Before the partition, Executiue Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Chief Engineers and Sub-Divisional Officers were mostly Hindus and Sikhs. At that time canal irrigated area was one crore and 4o lakhs acres and now it has been reduced to 3 million acres only. Under these circumstances, there appears to be no justification whatever for the retention of the present number of highly paid engineers The expenditure of Rs. 70 lakhs on establishment appears to be excessive in an area of 30 lakhs acres of canal irrigated land. The Irrigation Department has thus become a centre for providing work to the surplus staff of engineers. There are more officers in the department than what the requirements of the department demand. There is an imperative need for overhauling this department with a view to making it less cumbersome and more economical. Last year the hon. Chief Minister gave an assurance that he would tap all sources of revenue in orde to reduce the rate of abiana. But this year he has imposed fresh taxes upon the people who are already over-burdened We are being forced to keep white elephants when we can hardly bear the expenses of keeping a horse. This is exactly the case of top-heavy administration of the Irrigation Department The Government should seriously examine the question of effecting reduction in the expenditure on establishment in this department If it really thinks that the expenditure is unwieldy then the superfluous officers should be axed.

Sir, the pity of the matter is that a very large part of this money which is being spent in respect of establishment charges in this State goes to the pockets of big officers and so far has its

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department is concerned it has become a means of providing jobs to useless people—people who would otherwise not be able to earn their livelihood. On the other hand let us see what is the lot of subordinate employees such as Overseers. In the joint Punjab they had represented that their scale of pay was inadequate and efforts were made to silence them by raising the basic pay from eighty rupees to ninety rupees but a cruel joke was played with them by cutting down the annual increment from Rs, 7 to Rs. 5 and thus what was given with one hand was snatched with the other. What a cleverness on the part of the big bosses but what a fraud with the poor? Now it is three years since they have been making representations to the Government for revision of their grade but all in vain.

Now a few words about the big bosses. Once I went to see a Superintending Engineer. In the course of conversation he broached the subject of his salary and said that he was drawing about Rs 2,000 per mensem but was finding it very hard to meet his expenses with this amount. I enquired of him as to how it was that overseers and peons of his office who were drawing Rs. 90 and Rs. 25 per mensem respectively plus dearness allowance were able to live within those small amounts. Sir, the reply that he gave makes my head hang down with shame whenever it is recalled to my mind. His remarks were 'Well, these people have always been pulling on with these meagre salaries and they have got used to it. They manage to pull on somehow or the other. But, you see, one of my sons is studying in England, other children are also receiving collegiate education. My wife is not keeping well and I have to take her to Bombay for an operation in a certain hospital. With all these obligations to discharge how do you consider my salary sufficient for my needs'.

In this connection, Sir, I am reminded of another instance. In the pre-independence era we used to hear about a certain Maharaja who after having spent Rs 76 lakhs in four months' stay in England had remarked 'We are poor people. Our income is so meagre that we are finding it difficult to meet our ordinary expenses'. Then, Sir, you might have heard of another Raja.

Mr. Speaker: Please, leave it.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Alright, Sir. Another instance of the extravagant manner in which money is squandered by big people has just come to my mind. Once I was surprised to see a litter of

150 dogs on the Solan Railway Station, accompanying which there were as many as twenty-five liveried attendants. When I made enquiries as to whose battalion it was I was informed that it belonged to Nawab Sir Allah Baksh, uncle of Malik Khizar Hyat Khan and that six goats were the daily feed of those dogs.

Chief Minister : Sir, I would request the hon. Member to avoid such references to persons who are no longer living.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, what I want to emphasize is that however big salary you might give to a man accustomed to living in an extravagant style he will always remain dissatisfied. And I feel, Sir, the fat-salaried officers are an unbearable burden on the poor tax-payer. On the other hand we find the standard of living of the subordinate employees deteriorating from day to day. The price index has risen to 420 in case of almost all commodities, taking 1939 prices to be the base.

Now, Sir, a few words abou the corruption prevalent in this department. It has come in for trenchant criticism on this account. In my opinion, the officials of this Department who make money by corrupt practices may be divided into three categories. In the first category are the subordinate low-paid employees who finding it impossible to make both ends meet with their meagre salaries have perforce to resort to corrupt methods to supplement their income. In the second category I place the spendthrift officers whose expenditure always exceeds their income but there is a third category also which is comparatively of recent growth It comprises those displaced engineers who are determined to make up for their losses in immovable property-houses and bungalows that they had to leave behind in Lahore and Rawalpindi, during the two or three years of service that are left to them. And thanks to the Bhakra and Capital projects there is no dearth of opportunities for them to retrieve their lost fortunes. So they are now bent upon making money with redoubled zest.

Sir, you might have often heard the saying that a good horse recognises the rider in an instant and acts accordingly. One of the chief causes of the prevalence of corruption in this Department is the officials' knowledge of the fact of the utter ignorance of the hon.

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Minister concerned about its working. I am not indulging in exaggeration, Sir, when I say that this Department has been having the lot of a football. I doubt if it has remained in the charge of a single Minister for even one year continuously during the last three years. In such conditions how can any one expect stability and continuity in the policies of the Government with regard to this Department? And how can the staff be expected to improve their conduct when they know in their hearts that Ministers will come and go but they will go on for ever. So far as my information goes, Sir, not lakhs but crores of ill-gotten rupees have gone to the officials of this Department during the last three years.

Now, Sir, I would like to make a reference to another great injustice that this Department proposes to do to the zamindars of this State. The injustice that it has already done to them is the enhancement of the rate of 'Abiana' in spite of their cries of protests and petitions of mercy. I would not name those whose betrayal and breach of trust has resulted in putting this additional burden on the peasants. It is now learnt that the Government of India has now asked this Government to be prepared to make a levy of Betterment Fee on all the lands which will get water for irrigation purposes from Bhakra and Nangal projects.

I am of the opinion that this imposition of a betterment fee must have been suggested to the Central Government by our hon. Ministers as they wish to realize the whole expenditure on the irrigation schemes from the zamindars. The hon. Chief Minister once remarked that Abiana had been increased to meet the increasing expenditure on the maintenance of canals and for providing them with lining to stop water-logging. He went on to say that all expenditure whether on the new canals or on the old canals had to come from the zamindars. This means that this Government will get plenty of money by way of betterment fee and increased Abiana. But in all seriousness I ask what is the substantial work that this Government is to do in connection with the irrigation schemes It has only to perform the function of a letter box, i. e. realizing money from zamindars in the form of betterment fee and Abiana and remitting it to the Central Government to pay the loan. This is all that this Government is capable of doing.

Sir, it is said that our Irrigation Department is a very efficient department. But somehow I do not subscribe to this idea as it is not doing any useful work. Let us for a moment examine the position of water supply in this State of the Punjab. It is observed that there are places in this State which are suffering from excess of water in the shape of water-logging and there are also places which are suffering from shortage of water. When the districts of Karnal and Amritsar are suffering from water-logging, crops have been ruined in districts of Gurgaon Rohtak and Hissar for want of water. The able engineers of this Government have never taken pains to regulate supply of water. They have never applied their minds to any schemes by which they might be able to supply water through the agency of electricity to those areas where people are dying of thirst. I am sure that if proper arrangements were made water from Beas could be easily utilized for the benefit of the people in Jullundur. But the bane of this Government and its engineers is that nobody bothers to do any thinking. On the one side people are dying of thirst and on the other in places like Amritsar people are managing to drain water out of their lands. The present state of affairs leads me to think that this Government is incapable of hitting upon any useful plans. If it were to formulate a regular plan and undertake a proper survey, I dare say it would have managed for the irrigation of at least forty lakh acres of land in place of the thirty lakh acre which are being irrigated at present. I think that a good deal of water can be saved from the canals and supplied to other areas if canal water is discontinued to places where sub-soil water is not more than 15 feet deep. This step should also help us in checking thur and water-logging in most of the places. We should try to benefit ourselves from the experience which was gained at Gujranwala, Sheikhupura and Lyallpur in this respect and ask our engineers to provide us with such schemes which bring about the prosperity of our State. But alas, nobody would do such a thing and no useful work will be exacted from the engineers. The engineers will only be asked to benefit this or that individual as he happens to be an associate of the persons in power. If these engineers were to be usefully employed they should have been asked to arrange supply of water at Kalanwali in district Hissar where two men were crushed to death in an engine. They should have been asked to set right the drainage system in Karnal and Jagadhri and canalize the large quantities of water in Chamkaur and Rupar. In this connection it will not be out of place to mention the useful service

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that the late Mian Abdul Haye, an ex-Minister of the United Punjab rendered to the people of the Bet who were ever afflicted by Malaria and excess of water by canalizing the water in Budha Nala in our ilaqa. But so far as this Government is concerned I don't think it has ever heard of this Budha Nala or has ever cared to attend to its repairs. This Government does not know how to initiate a new scheme. The hon. Ministers only know how to sign papers like a machine which may be sent up from below. (*A voice.* The hon Member should be grateful for the sum of Rs. 5,000 that is to be spent on the Nilo Kalan Bridge.) Sir, so far as this sum of Rs. 5,000 is concerned it is not to be utilized for the bridge which is in a deplorable condition for the last fifteen years. A bridge cannot be built by such a small sum. This small amount has been given for a ferry and not for the bridge.

There is urgent need of providing suitable drainage for the water of Sirhind canal. This district badly needs proper drains. As you are aware, Sir, at many places in this district, the level of water has risen very high. In Talewala, where the level of water used to be from eighty to one hundred cubits below the ground, now it is three or four cubits only. This is the case since after 1947 and the lands are suffering heavy damage on account of water logging. If the Government does not pay immediate attention to the necessity of providing drains for the water of the branches of Sirhind canal, thousands of acres of land in Ludhiana will be completely ruined. The same water can prove very useful, if it is thrown into distributaries. The Government tells us that a British firm would be given contract for boring two hundred and fifty tube wells in this area, but nobody knows when that scheme will materialize. People are crying on account of the damage which is being done to their lands on account of water logging. Several promises are made by the Government but nothing is actually done.

Then, Sir, as everybody knows, a large part of the population of this State consists of displaced persons. The expenditure which the Government has to incur is too heavy as compared with its income. If there is no scope for more taxation, has the Government ever paid attention to the necessity of devising such means which might lead to economy in expenditure without affecting efficiency of administration. Committees are set up for exploring ways of effecting economy but laymen like Members of the Assembly are appointed as their members.

Similarly, Members of the Assembly were appointed on the Retrenchment Committee constituted by the Government. If a layman like myself is asked to ex imine in datail the question of effecting economy in the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department, how can he be expected to understand the details of such a technical subject.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : If laymen can be Ministers, why can they not examine such matters ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : My hon Friend, perhaps, does not know that the Ministers h ve only to frame policies. It is for the experts to prepare plans and to execute them. It shall be very creditable if there is some expert among us, generally the Members of the Legislature are jacks of all trades but masters of none.

I made two suggestions to the Government even before the partition I suggested that the Revenue Section of the Irrigation Department should be amalgamated with the main Revenue Department. The second suggestion made by me was that the Department in-charge of construction of canal roads should be amalgamated with the Buildings and Roads branch of the Public Works Department. There are some departments which do not have sufficient work to justify their separate existence. Huge sums of m ney are being wasted in this manner. If the Government seriously tackled this problem, they could increase efficiency in administration and at the same time effect economy in expenditure. Seventy-one lakhs of rupees are being spent in this State on Irrigation. If the expenses on Bhakra Scheme are also included in it, it will amount to Rs. 147 lakhs. The Budget reveals that almost the same amount is being spent on the Canal Department alone as is being expended on the en ire General Administration. If the Government ser ously thinks over the matter, Irrigation Depart nent is the most important f all the Government Departments.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Is this an expert opinion or that of a layman?

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am saying these things on the basis of information given to me by those persons, who can not express their views in this House. It is a pity that our Government does not pay proper heed to the views of experts. It only knows how to engage a few more peons or how to get their own men employed or transferred. It has no other qualification. I can tell my hon. Friend in private the names of those experts on whose views I am basing my observations. If the Government is prepared to accept my suggestion, I shall

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ask them to think over this matter seriously. The Irrigation Department can do double the work with two-third of the expenditure which is being incurred on it at present. It is our misfortune that our Government has not realized the necessity of supplying a small amount of water to those places in Ambala and Hoshiarpur districts, where thousands of acres of land are being washed away on account of erosion. The Government revenues and the food production of this State could be easily increased by provision of suitable irrigation in this area. The Government, however, is quite inactive in these matters. There are people who are prepared to give loans to the Government for the construction of bunds. That will enable the Government to tide over its difficulty in the matter of funds. In these areas the production of rice and sugarcane, so badly needed in the country, can be increased manifold. Our Government, however, neither pays attention to those areas which are suffering on account of water-logging, nor to those where the rains are in plenty but a small arrangement for proper irrigation can yield very useful results. Is the Government doing anything for the supply of water to Bet areas for the Rabi harvest, which can be done quite easily?

In the end, Sir, I wish to say that our Government is lucky in having the best engineers, whose equals are not found anywhere else in this country. It has the best talent at its disposal; our engineers received training in Europe and America, but if in spite of all these advantages, it does not make use of its resources, it will be the case of 'water water every where but not a drop to drink'. It is a pity that this Government is not making full use of the ability of its engineers and other experts. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Monday, 26th March, 1951.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

26th March 1951

Vol. III—No. 15

OFFICIAL REPORT

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Monday, 26 March 1951

Price:- Rs. 3/9/-

Punjab Legislative Assembly

Third Session of the First Punjab Legislative Assembly

MONDAY, the 26th March 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p.m. of the clock.

ABSENCE OF HON. SPEAKER.

Secretary : I regret to inform the House that the hon. Speaker will not be able to attend the meeting of the House today on account of the injuries that he has received in a caraccident. The office of the Deputy Speaker also being vacant, Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, a Member of the Panel of Chairmen, will take the chair.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa occupied the Chair amidst cheers.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SANCTIONED CADRE OF THE INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT.

*2743 **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :-

(a) the sanctioned cadre of 1st and 2nd grade officers and officials separately in the Industries Department on 1-1-1948, 1-1-1949, 1-1-1950 and 1-1-1951, respectively ;

(b) the number of posts of the officer grade in this department which were filled by temporary (officiating) hands on the dates mentioned above ;

(c) the number of posts which have not so far been filled by permanent hands together with the reasons therefor ;

(d) when does the Government propose to fill these posts by permanent hands ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :- A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table. †

† Kept in the Library

SHIFTING OF ALLOTMENTS IN THE STATE.

*2870. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :-

(a) the number of land allottees shifted after the quasi-permanent allotment from their places of allotment in the State.

(b) whether the Government intends to give any compensation to persons referred to in part (a) above in view of the improvements made in the lands already allotted to them ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : (a) Actual shifting of the land allottees is to take place when decisions have been taken on the applications for review of allotment and figures of the areas required for necessary adjustments are available.

(b) As those allotments only are to be cancelled, which have been made against rules, the question of compensation does not arise except in those cases where improvements have been made with the assent of the Custodian or Rehabilitation Authority and the allottee is entitled to compensation under sections 71, 72 and 73 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that notices have been issued to the allottees who were previously granted lands on a quasi-permanent basis ?

Minister : This might be the case in respect of those to whom lands were allotted against the rules.

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; Is it a fact that lands were allotted to them in accordance with the then existing rules ?

Minister : It is possible that some defects might creep in which can be removed later on.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the allottees were given to understand that the quasi-permanent allotment was more or less a permanent allotment and consequently they made improvements upon such lands ?

Minister : The hon. Member himself admits that it was 'more or less' a permanent allotment.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the Government had decided that the quasi-permanent allotment would continue undisturbed till some permanent settlement with Pakistan is reached; if so, why is it that there is a shifting of the allottees ?

Minister : I have already stated that the quasi-permanent allotments which were against the rules are being corrected.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does the Government intend taking action against the officers who were responsible for such defects in allotment ?

Minister : The question of taking action against them does not arise. If, however, any officer intentionally made mistakes he can be punished.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the policy of the Government with regard to giving compensation to those persons to whom lands were given till some settlement with Pakistan would be reached and who consequently made improvements upon such lands but have since been shifted ?

Minister : I can give information regarding such particular cases only as may be brought to the notice of the Government. It is not possible to give a general reply.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I wish to know the general policy of the Government in this matter. There is not one case but many. What I want to know is whether any compensation will be given for the improvements carried out by the allottees on such lands ?

Minister : Allotments were made under the rehabilitation rules and the question of compensation is governed by the provisions of Punjab Tenancy Act 1887.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that the rules regarding allotment have been changed so many times ?

Minister : That question does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : When once a quasi-permanent allotment is carried out according to some rules and with the intention of keeping it unchanged except when a final settlement with Pakistan is reached on the point, how is it that the Government subsequently changed it ?

Minister : Only such allotments are changed as go against the rules. Otherwise the Government does not interfere.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES

*2871. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether any correspondence has passed

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]
between the Union Government and the Punjab State Government on the subject of the moral and legal responsibility of the Government to rehabilitate the refugees, if so, with what result ?

The hon.Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : A resolution moved by Shri Virendra was passed by this Assembly in March, 1949, recommending that the Government of India should accept moral and legal responsibility for the partition of India and should take steps to compensate refugees who having lost everything in Pakistan had migrated to India. This resolution was transmitted to the Government of India for necessary action.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the Government feels that the responsibility for the partition of Punjab lies on the Central Government ; if so, has the Government of Punjab taken any other steps than the mere forwarding of the resolution passed by the Assembly, to impress upon the Government of India their responsibility with regard to the losses suffered by the Punjabis in obedience to the commands of the Centre ?

Minister : I think I have already given the reply of the Government. But I refuse to express my personal views on this matter.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether it is in the knowledge of the Government of Punjab that the Prime Minister issued a statement sometime back in which he refused to take legal or moral responsibility for the losses suffered by the displaced persons ; if so, has the Government written to the Central Government what the Punjabis feel in this matter ?

Minister : I think the resoeution of the Punjab Assembly was passed after this statement. The fact that this resolution was sent up by our Government is an indication of our position in this matter.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether any other pressure has been exerted by the Government in this important matter which concerns lakhs of deserving people ?

Minister : I have nothing more to .

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REVIEW AND REVISION OF ALLOTMENT OF LANDS.

*3059. Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that applications for reviews and revisions filed by the allottees of land against their allotments have not yet been taken up by the courts ; if so, the reasons therefor and when they will be heard ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : Applications for review of allotments of evacuee land have already been taken up by the officers concerned and 22,912 have actually been decided upto 15th February, 1951. In view of the large number of applications the target for taking decisions on them and implementing the decisions has been fixed as 30th September, 1951.

Thakur Dalip Singh ; Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation kindly tell us whether the decisions on the review applications will be completed before the next sowing season becaese the target date fixed by the Government in this respect falls after the sowing season ?

Minister : Both the decisions on the applications and their implementation will be completed by the 30th September and not before.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Minister please state the policy of the Government regarding the review of applications of allotment of lands ? May I know whether the policy is that a person should get consolidated land of the same grade at one place or different areas of land of different grades at different places ?

Minister . One of the main reasons on the basis of which a review application will be dealt with, will be whether an allottee has got land according to the grade or not. If not, then allotment will be made in conformity with the necessary grade. Besides this. every effort will be made to allot the whole share of the land to the allottee at one place.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Minister aware that one of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, on Rehabilitation of refugees, was to the effect that an allottee should get consolidated land at one place ?

Minister : If any cases, in which departure has been made, are brought to the notice of the Government, endeavour will be made to grant consolidated lands to the allotees at one place.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : My question is as to what is the declared policy of the Government on this point ? Should an allottee receive different strips of land at different places ?

Minister : The policy of the Government is to grant consolidated land to an allottee as far as it is possible; but if the land of the same grade is not available at the same place, naturally it has to be allotted at more than one place.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Will the hon. Minister please state whether an allottee will have a right of appeal against the decision made by Government on his review application ?

Minister : Yes, it has been provided in the rules.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister kindly let us know those rules under which an appeal will be permissible against the decision of the Government on a review application of an allottee ? Will he also tell us the authority before whom an appeal can be filed ?

Minister : The hon. Lady Member can study the rules. I cannot state them off-hand.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Minister should kindly tell us something about the rules from his memory.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Point of order, Sir. Is it a memory test ? (*Laughter*)

Thakur Dalip Singh : Is it the declared policy of the Government that all the close relations of an allottee should also be granted land near him so that they may all be put together ?

Minister : Yes. That is a fact.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO SHRI BAN RAJ CHAND IN DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR.

*3060 **Thakur Dalip Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Ban Raj Chand and others of village Lahat, Tehsil Palampur, District Kangra were allotted land in village Sehota, Tehsil Dasuya, Sub-Tehsil Mukerian, District Hoshiarpur and whether it is also a fact that they took possession of the land so allotted in time and sowed the Kharif crop there ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the allotment of a portion of that land allotted to the persons referred to in part (a) above was cancelled and that it was allotted to somebody else in the same village without any intimation to them.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the possession of the land reallotted as mentioned in part (b) above was given to the new allottee along with the standing crop ;

(d) if answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, the reasons therefor ;

(e) whether it is a fact that Ban Raj Chand and others brought

the above facts to the notice of higher authorities ; if so, the action, if any, taken in this connection ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) For consolidation of close relations of certain displaced land-owners.

(e) Yes. The crops were placed under Supardari and the case is being examined and will be decided in review.

Thakur Dalip Singh: Is the hon. Minister aware that the crops are still rotting in the field because no final decision has so far been arrived at regarding this matter ?

Minister : Not to my knowledge.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Will the hon. Minister kindly institute an enquiry into the matter ?

Minister : Since the hon. Member has now imparted this information, the matter will certainly be enquired into.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know under what rules does the Government give possession of land of an allottee, who has effected improvements on it, to another, as is the case in the question under reply ?

Minister : So far as the allotment of land in question is concerned, I have stated that the crops were placed under Supardari and the case is being examined and will be decided in review. After the decision has been arrived at, the rightful allottee will get possession of the land in question.

CO-OPERATIVE FOREST SOCIETIES IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

*3058. **Thakur Dalip Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government proposes to start Co-operative Forest Societies in Hamirpur Tehsil of the Kangra District ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh : No.

SANCTIONED POSTS OF THE PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENTS.

*2749 **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

[S. Sajjan Singh]

(a) the number of the sanctioned posts of 1st and 2nd grade officers separately in the Publicity and Public Relations Departments on the 1st January, 1948, 1st January, 1949; 1st January 1950, and 1st January, 1951 respectively;

(b) the number of the posts referred to in part (a) above which were filled by officiating officers on the dates referred to above.

(c) the number of the posts referred to in part (a) above which have not been filled so far by confirmed officers together with the reasons therefor:

(d) when does the Government propose to fill these posts by confirmed officers?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: (a), (b) and (c) Two statements giving the required information are laid on the Table †

(d) The posts have now been sanctioned on a permanent basis and the question of confirmation of temporary officers is under the active consideration of Government.

SANCTIONED CADRE OF THE P. C. S. (EXECUTIVE BRANCH)

*2750. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:-

(a) the strength of the sanctioned cadre of 1st and 2nd grade officers separately in the P. C. S. (Executive Branch) on 1-1-48 1-1-49, 1-1-50 and 1-1-51 respectively;

(b) the number of the posts referred to in part (a) above which were filled by the officiating officers on the dates mentioned above;

(c) the number of the posts referred to above which have not so far been filled by confirmed officers together with the reasons therefor;

(d) when does the Government propose to fill these posts?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: (a) There is only one grade in the P. C. S. (Executive Branch). After Partition the cadre of the P. C. S. (Executive Branch) was fixed at 187 posts with effect from 1st June, 1948. The cadre still comprises 187 posts.

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(b)	No. of temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners recruited from among lawyers in connection with the law & order problem at the time of partition.	No. of persons employed as Sp. Magistrates from Retired Extra Asstt. Commissioners, etc.	Lawyer Magistrates.	Officiating Extra Asstt. Commissioner's
1-1-1948	7	—	22	44
1-1-1949	—	17	18	21
1-1-1950	—	18	17	25
1-1-1951	—	4	11	39

(c) 41. Lawyer Magistrates are confirmed in the P. C. S. on merits, if there are permanent vacancies. Officiating Extra Assistant Commissioners are confirmed after they complete the prescribed period of probation, pass the Departmental Examination and show satisfactory work, during the period of probation. The reason for not confirming these officers is that they have not yet fulfilled these conditions.

(d) As soon as the officers fulfil the necessary conditions.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether the Government did not keep in view its declared policy of not recruiting retired offiicers?

Chief Minister: We re-employed them wherever we considered their services to be necessary and in the interest of the administration. But with the gradual recruitment of young men, we dispensed with their services and now their number is only four.

Shri Prabodh Chnndra: Is it not the policy of the Government, not to give any extension of service to any officer who is on the verge of retirement?

Chiet Minister: Ordinarily extension will not be granted.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : But what are those special circumstances under which Government will grant extension ot service to certain officers?

Chief Minister : If it is in the interest of administration to retain certain officer, extension of service will be granted to him or re-employmen will be offered to him.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that Government has declared that no extension will be granted to any officer after he has attained the age of 55 years?

Chief Minister That is not correct.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether at the time of granting extension of service to an officer, Government will send his case to the Public Service Commission for opinion?

Chief Minister : Ordinarily Public Service Commission is consulted about the suitability of an incumbent at the time of recruitment. But this question does not arise in the case of retiring officers who have already put in long service and whose suitability is undoubted.

Shri Prabodh Candra : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that there is a whispering propaganda among the public that extensions of service are being granted by the Government to their own yes-men?

Chief Minister : I don't think that this arises out of the main question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Chief Minister tell us those specases in which extension in service would be granted? May I know whether incumbents working next to these officers would not prove suitable to run the administration of these departments?

Chief Minister : Sir, this is a hypothetical question.

Mr. Chairman ; Next question please.

SANCTIONED CADRE OF THE P. C. S. (JUDICIAL BRANCH).

*2751. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the strength of the sanctioned cadre of 1st and 2nd grade officers separately in the P. C. S. (Judicial Branch) on 1.1.48, 1.1.49, 1.1.50 and 1.1 51 respectively;

(b) the number of posts referred to in part (a) above which have been filled by officiating officers on the dates mentioned above;

(c) the number of officers referred to above who have not been confirmed so far together with the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) There is only one grade in the P. C. S. (Judicial Branch). After partition the cadre of this service was fixed at 80 posts with effect from the 10th January; 1949. The cadre still comprises 80 posts.

(b) The number of posts filled by officiating officers on 1.1.48 1.1.49, and 1.1.50 was nil and on 1.1.51 it was four.

(c) Four, as they have not so far completed the required one year's service and have also not passed departmental examination by the higher standard.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the vacancies in the P.C.S Cadre are filled by officiating arrangement immediately when any vacancy occurs ? Is it not a fact that undue delay is caused in making these appointments as a result of which the officers who are to officiate against such posts are kept in suspense ? Is it also not a fact that this practice has resulted in the deterioration of the administration ?

Mr. Chairman : Disallowed.

SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF THE JAILS DEPARTMENT.

*2752. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :-

(a) the sanctioned strength of the cadre of 1st and 2nd grade officers separately of the Jails Department on 1.1.48, 1.1.49, 1.1.50 and 1-1-51 respectively ;

(b) the number of posts referred to in part (a) above which were filled by officiating officers on the dates mentioned above ;

(c) the number of the aforesaid officers who have not been confirmed so far together with the reasons therefor ;

(d) when does the Government propose to fill posts referred to in part (b) above by permanent hands ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) In the Jails Department only the posts of Deputy Superintendents carry grades 1st and 2nd. It is, therefore, presumed that the hon. Member desires to have information about these posts only. A statement marked 'A' containing the required information is laid on the Table.

(b) A statement marked 'B' is laid on the Table.

(c) First part : 3

Second part : Out of the 3 posts 2 have been reserved for direct recruits and the Public Service Commission has been asked to

[Chief Minister]

recommend names of suitable candidates for this purpose. The third vacancy occurred on the 19th December, 1950, only.

(d) The two posts reserved for direct recruits are likely to be filled up in the near future. The question of permanent appointment against the third vacancy will be considered in the light of (i) record of officiating men after receipt of their report for the year 1950 and (ii) actual working for some months in accordance with the usual procedure.

"A"

Statement showing the sanctioned strength of the cadre of Deputy Superintendents I Grade and II Grade on the Ist January, 1948, Ist January, 1949, Ist January, 1950 and Ist January, 1951.

Name of post	Sanctioned strength on			
	1-1-1948	1-1-1949	1-1-1950	1-1-1951
1. Deputy Superintendent Ist Grade.	2	2	2	2
2. Deputy Superintendent II Grade.	8	8	8	8

"B"

Statement showing the number of posts filled by officiating officers.

Name of post	Number filled by officiating officers on			
	1-1-1948	1-1-1949	1-1-1950	1-1-1951.
1. Deputy Superintendent Ist Grade.	—	1	—	—
2. Deputy Superintendent II Grade.	—	—	--	3

SANCTIONED STRENGTH OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

*2753. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the sanctioned strength of the cadre of 1st and 2nd grade officers in the Finance Department on 1-1-1948, 1-1-1949, 1-1-1950 and 1-1-1951 respectively ;

(b) the number of posts referred to above which were filled by officiating officers on the dates mentioned above ;

(c) the number of the aforesaid officers who have not been confirmed so far together with the reasons therefor ;

(d). when does the Government propose to fill posts referred to in part (b) above by permanent hands ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) There are no lst and 2nd Grade officers in the Finance Department. These officers, however, belong to class I and class II State Service. The sanctioned strength of these officers on the dates mentioned was as follows :—

	1-1-1948	1-1-1949	1-1-1950	1-1-1951.
Calss I	1	1	1	1
Class II	2	2	7	7

The increase in the number of Class II officers in 1950 and 1951 was due to the fact that 5 Superintendents already employed were given class II status in November, 1949.

(b)	None	None	1	None

(c) None. There is however, one officer who is on deputation from the Government of India and holds a tenure post. The question of his confirmation does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

ENQUIRY AGAINST S. KAPUR SINGH I. C. S.

*2873. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the amount the Government has spent so far on the enquiry into the case of S. Kapur Singh, I. C. S. ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : Rs. 16,444/—.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it the intention of the Government to spend more than the amount already referred to by the hon. Chief Minister ?

Chief Minister : The matter is sub-judice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, the question of this matter being sub-judice, does not arise. What I wish to know is whether it is the intention of the Government to spend more on the enquiry into the case of S. Kapur Singh ? If so, how much amount is going to be spent by the Government in this connection ?

Chief Minister : I cannot give the figures unless the case is decided.

PUBLICATION OF PERIODICALS.

*2874. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of periodicals published by the State ;

(b) the amount spent on each one of them during the year 195 ;

(c) the number of paid subscribers for each one of them ;

(d) the number of copies of each periodical sent to stalls for sale together with the number actually sold ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) (i) Our Punjab (English).

(ii) Pradeep (Hindi)

(iii) Veer Bhumi (Gurmukhi).

(b) (i) Our Punjab	Rs. 7824/15/9
(ii) Pradeep	Rs. 9015/5/-
(iii) Veer Bhumi	Rs. 7996/12/-

(c) (i) Our Punjab	118
(ii) Pradeep	693
(iii) Veer Bhumi	393

(d)	Number of copies sent to stalls	Number of copies actually sold.
(i) Our Punjab	3479	3059
(ii) Pradeep	5836	4687
(iii) Veer Bhumi	3950	3811

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In view of the reply of the hon. Chief Minister to part (d) above, may I know how much does the Government gain or lose yearly in this bargain ?

Chief Minister : These publications are not undertaken from the point of view of any loss or profit.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that these publications have been undertaken by the Government simply to provide jobs to some persons ?

Chief Minister : It is a wrong insinuation.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether or not Government feels that these publications have been instrumental in making its policy more progressive and popular among the people ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the recommendations made by the Committee which was set up to revise the working of the Publicity Department, have been considered by the Government ?

Mr. Chairman : Disallowed.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that the Committee recommended at the publication of the English periodicals should be stopped ?

Mr. Chairman . Disallowed.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that equal number of the copies of the periodicals are published in Hindi, Punjabi and in other languages ?

Chief Minister : The number of these publications is different.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Which of these periodicals are published in large number ?

Chief Minister : I require fresh notice for this question.

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : Is it not the intention of the Government to make the publication and sale of these periodicals a self-supporting concern ? Is it also the intention of the Government to stop the publication of these periodicals so that there may not be any further loss to the Government ?

Chief Minister : When it is found that these periodicals are running at a loss, then their publicatin would be stopped. However, Government is examining this question from time to time and it has not suffered any loss so far.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the Government received the payment for the 3,000 copies of the periodicals as referred to by the hon. Chief Minister or has it only received the intimation about these copies having been sold ?

Chief Minister : Government has received the payment.

Shrimati Sita Devi : In view of the reply of the hon. Chief Minister that the publication of the periodicals would be suspended, may I know how much time will it take to stop it ?

Chief Minister : I cannot say that.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I just want to know the approximate time by which the publication of the periodicals would be stopped ?

Chief Minister : That will be done when it is found that it is running at a loss.

Shrimati Sita Devi : How much time will it take the Government to stop these publications ?

Chief Minister : Government does not feel the necessity to take such a step yet.

PUBLICITY FILMS.

*2875. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Publicity films prepared by the Government from 15th August, 1947 to 31st December, 1950 ;

(b) the total amount spent thereon ;

(c) whether any tenders were invited by the Government for their preparation ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) 14

(b) Rs. 1,16,104/-

(c) Yes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the contract been given to those who offered to prepare the films at the lowest rates ?

Chief Mnister : The rates at which these films have been given on contract are comparatively less than those of the Central Government and the other States.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did any person offer to undertake this work at minimum rates ? Has the Government received any complaint to this effect ? Is it also a fact that an official of the Punjab Government offered to prepare these films at rates lower than those at which these have been given on contract ?

Chief Minister : I do not exactly remember whether or not any complaint has been received by the Government. However, I may add for the information of the hon. Member that the lowest rates were not accepted by the Government due to certain considerations.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether any help was taken from the educationists at the time of preparing these films ?

Chief Minister Films are prepared for those departments which make a request in this behalf.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether these films were exhibited in schools and colleges; if so, the number of such schools and colleges ? I would like to get this information in order to know whether films have any educative value.

Chief Mnister: These films have publicity value.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Does it mean that the educative value is being ignored by the Government ?

Chief Minister : These films are prepared for publicity purposes.

Mehta Ranbir Singh ; Is the Government aware of the fact that these films are also exhibited in schools and colleges ?

Chief Minister : These films are exhibited by the Education Department under the head "Social Education."

Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal : May I know whether the Publicity Department is functioning in the same old manner or its policy has been revised after the attainment of independence ?

Chief Minister : There is now a change in the policy.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know if the hon. Chief Minister would like to exhibit any film to the Members of this House ?

Chief Minister : If hon. Members express their desire and make it convenient to see these films, I would like to show them four films in connection with the Grow More-Food campaign.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to give the work of preparation of films to any firm whose tender is not the lowest ?

Chief Minister : Ordinarily the work is given to such a firm which gives the lowest tender provided the Government is satisfied that it would be able to do that work satisfactorily.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know why this work was given to a firm other than the firms which gave the lowest tender although other firms had enough experience of this line and were prepared to deposit the necessary security ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives the names then I shall examine the question.

QUARTERING OF PUNITIVE POLICE POSTS IN DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR.

*2876. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of punitive police posts quartered in the Hoshiarpur district during the period 1st January 1913 to 15th August, 1947 ;

(b) the fines realised from the residents of these areas :

(c) whether the Government intend to refund the fines realised ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) Eleven during the period from 1st January 1942 to 15th August 1947. No record prior to the year 1942 is available.

(b) Rs. 1,95,663/5/6 for these posts.

(c). No.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : There are certain districts in which punitive police posts were quartered after 15th August 1947 but in many cases the fines were not realised and if realised were refunded. May I know why the Government does not propose to refund the fines realised from Hoshiarpur district ?

Chief Minister : Sir, if I get notice I will make enquiries and then I shall be in a position to give a reply.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The policy of the Government has been to refund the fine in those districts where it was imposed on political grounds. According to this policy the Government also refunded the fine to those workers who had taken part in the political activities. May I know whether Government took this action after getting information from the Pakistan Government as to where these punitive police posts were quartered ?

Chief Minister : I am sorry I cannot get this information from Pakistan.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In case the people of those ilaqas submit their affidavits or the M.L.A's of those ilaqas give statement to the effect that fines were realised from the people who took part in political actvities, will the Government take steps to refund these fine realised from those political workers ?

Chief Minister : It is a request for action.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : A punitive police post was quartered in Jautala, district Rohtak, and the punitive tax was remitted for the

activities of the inhabitants of this village which were described as allied to the political activities. May I know whether the Government propose to refund the fine to the inhabitants of such villages where police posts were quartered for their political activities ?

Chief Minister: Sir, it is again a request for action.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether the fines realised from the residents of those areas in which punitive police posts were quartered were due to criminal offences or political crimes committed therein ?

Chief Minister: I have no detailed information and require notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Did the Government receive representations from the political workers that the Government's action was not in conformity with its policy that the fines may be refunded to the persons who took part in political activities ?

Chief Minister: I require notice to answer this question.

REFUND OF C. A. TO SARDAR HARJAP SINGH EX-M. L. A.

*2877. **Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the hon Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has received any representation from Sardar Harjap Singh. ex-M. L. A. for payment of his Assembly C. A, while he was under detention in joint Punjab; if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter ?

The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

Yes. The matter is under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know when the Government received a representation from Sardar Harjap Singh ex-M.L.A. for payment of his compensatory allowance?

Chief Minister: I do not remember the date but the question of payment of compensatory allowance of all Members who were under legal detention is under the consideration of the Government. Necessary information is being collected and as soon as it is available the matter will be decided.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know how much time will it take, two months, four months or six months ?

Chief Minister: I am not in a position to give a definite date but efforts will be made to collect it as soon as possible.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is the Hon. Chief Minister aware that persons who have suffered losses for political reasons are in acute financial distress?

Chief Minister: It is a question of opinion, Sir.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know if the Government has under consideration the case of Sardar Harjap Singh only or the cases of all those who were detained in the Congress movement of 1941—42?

Chief Minister: The cases of all such M. L. A's who were not paid C. A for the period they were under detention in joint Punjab is under consideration pending the collection of the necessary information.

Shri Ram Sharma: Is the hon. Chief Minister himself included in that category?

Chief Minister: I was not a member of the Legislative Assembly at that time having resigned my seat previously. As regards fines, I was fined once only but I have not applied for its refund.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Will this question of payment of with-held compensatory allowance be decided on the same consideration as the refund of fines or will it be decided on the same basis as the giving of relief to political sufferers who are in distress and are unable to earn their livelihood.

Chief Minister: To my mind, it is also a question of giving relief to the political sufferers and should be dealt with on the same basis as other such measures.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Should I take it then that this question will not be decided on the analogy of fines which are to be refunded to all, whether rich or poor, but will be decided from the point of view of rehabilitating those in distress?

Chief Minister: Yes.

———

RECLAMATION OF LANDS SPOILED BY THUR, WATERLOGGING ETC.

* 2899 **Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the area of culturable land spoiled in the State by Thur and waterlogging district-wise together with the area so far reclaimed by Government efforts;

(b) the steps that are being taken by the Government to reclaim the entire areas of such lands and the progress so far made in this connection ?

The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) A statement of area affected by thur and sem in the Punjab State is placed on the Table. * An experimental Block of 2250 acres is under reclamation at the Indri Reclamation Farm in Karnal District. During the last year, 1489 acres of this block have been reclaimed. Reclamation Experimental Farms are being extended to more areas.

(b) The general reclamation of all the affected areas has not yet been taken in hand as the additional supplies required for this purpose are not available.

The technique of reclamation of the Sodium Carbonate soils as found in the Punjab (I) is being developed in the Irrigation Research Institute, Amritsar.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know where is it proposed to start more experimental farms for this purpose ?

Chief Minister: I can't give this information just now but I shall let the hon. Member know in the evening while replying to the debate on the demand for irrigation.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know what are the additional supplies for

* Kept in the Library

[Shri Ram Sharma]

want of which the reclamation of all the affected areas has not been taken in hand ?

Chief Minister: Obviously, supplies of water are meant ?

Shri Ram Sharma: How long will the work have to wait for want of water supply ? There is a considerable area to be reclaimed. Neither the Government itself undertakes its reclamation nor gives it to others on contract basis.

Chief Minister: So long as there is no irrigation scheme catering for the area, it is not possible for the Government to undertake reclamation work.

Shri Ram Sharma: The total area affected by thur and sem is about eighty-two thousand acres and the Government has during one year reclaimed only 2, 250 acres of land. May I know if the Government has prepared any scheme to expedite the work ?

Chief Minister: I shall inform the House of the Government scheme when I reply to the debate.

APPOINTMENT OF I. G. POLICE.

*2900. **Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that some changes had to be made in the officiating appointment of the Inspector General of Police in the vacancy recently caused by the long leave taken by the permanent I. G ;

(b) whether the Central Government had any say in the matter of the appointment ;

(c) whether promotion to the appointment is made on the basis of seniority in service or by selection ?

The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) No change was made in officiating appointment in leave arrangement of I. G of Police.

(b) No.

(c) The appointments to posts of Heads of Departments are made by selection with due regard to seniority.

Shri Ram Sharma: May I know whether the officer who relieved the Inspector General of Police when he was proceeding on leave had been allowed to take the charge from him permanently or as a temporary measure ?

Chief Minister: That was a collateral charge—neither officiating nor permanent

Shri Ram harma: Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that there was a considerable resentment among the high officers of the Department over this matter and they felt that by giving the chance to the present incumbent their rights had been ignored ?

Chief Minister: The question of resentment does not arise because the appointment is not substantive. There was no occasion for anybody to protest.

Shri Ram Sharma: Why is it then that after giving the charge first to one person the necessity of giving it to another was felt ?

Chief Minister: The person who was allowed to take the charge first had taken a collateral charge because he was present on the spot pending the final decison in the matter.

Shri Rma Sharma: When was the final decision to be taken ?

Chief Minister: After a month.

Shri Ram Sharma: Who was to decide it ?

Chief Minister: The Government.

Shri Ram Sharma: Was the matter referred to the Central Government before taking a decision ? Did they interfere in it ?

Chief Minister: I have already said that they had no say in the matter.

PROPOSAL FOR FILLING THE POSTS IN TEHSTATE.

*30.7 **Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha:** Will the hon. Chief Minsiter be pleased to state whether the Government has under consideration any proposal to fill all the posts on the basis of merit irrespective of caste and creed in the State ?

The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: All appointments are now made on merit. Reservation of posts in services exists only for Harijans.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know whether the question of merit is decided by the Punjab Public Service Commission or the hon. Chief Minister or the Minister incharge of the department concerned ?

Chief Minister: The posts which are required to be filled by the Public Service Commission under the rules are allowed to be filled by them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not a fact that 90% of the posts which under the rules ought to have been filled by the Public Service Commission have been filled up without reference to them on the excuse that they are of a temporary nature, of two months, or four months, duration and so on ?

Chief Minister: According to rules temporary posts have not to be referred to the Public Service Commission. It is a wrong insinuation to say that 90% of them have been filled without reference to the Public Service Commission.

RECRUITMENT TO P. C. S CADRE IN THE STATE.

*3082. **Chaudhari Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the total number of vacancies in the cadre of the P. C. S. (Executive) filled during the year 1949/50;

(b) the number of vacancies out of those referred to in part (a) above that were filled by Harijan candidates;

(c) whether the order of Government in giving representation to the Harijans according to 15% reservation was kept in view ?

The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) 45.

(b) 1.

(c) Yes. More Harijans could not be recruited in the P. C. S. (Executive Branch) as suitable candidates were not available. The Public Service Commission have now been asked to recommend to Government the names of suitable Harijans for appointment as Extra Assistant Commissioners

Shri Prabodh Chandra: If suitable Harijan candidates are not available, will the Government consider the advisability of relaxing the recruitment rules so that adequate representation is assured to Harijans ?

Chief Minister: The mode of recruitment has been relaxed but it is not possible to effect a relaxation in the matter of minimum qualifications.

Master Gurbanta Singh: Are not tho e candidates who pass the P. C. S competetive examination suitable for the posts ?

Chief Ministter: As no scheduled caste candidate succeeded in the competitive examination, no one from these candidates could be appointed.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: In reply to m y ques ion I am told by the hon. Chief Minister that only one man has been taken. May I know whether this one appointment gives 15 per cent representation to the Harijans ?

Chief Minister: I may for the information of my hon. Friend say that the resolution regarding 15 per cent representation for the Harijans was passed after decision in connection with the recruitment to 45 posts existing in 1949-50 had been arrived at.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: The other day the hon. Labour Minister remarked that in his department the representation of the Harijans was 22 per cent instead of 15 per cent. May I know whether the representation of Harijans in some departments is low because it is rather high in some departments ?

Chief Minister: It is a question of opinion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: It is the policy of the Government that 15 per cent representation should be given to the Harijans in all departments of the Government as a whole ?

Chief Minister: The policy of the Government is to give them 15 per cent representation in every department of Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that quite a number of Harijan candidates passed the P. C. S competitive examination ?

Chief Minister: Only those candidates who succeed in the competitive test are taken, others are not eligible for recruitment on the competition basis.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it not a fact that in the past if no candidate belonging to a particular community succeeded in the competition, candidates of that community who passed the examination were appointed ?

Chief Minister: I can't say anythingh off hand.

Master Gurbanta Singh: May I know how many Harijan candidates appeared in the last competitive examination ?

Chief Minister: I am sorry I don't possess this information at present.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it not desirable that those candidates who do not succeed in the competitive examination but get pass marks should be given appointments to make up the 15 per cent representation which has been fixed for the Harijans ?

Chief Minister: I will request the hon. Member to wait for the next question.

RECRUITMENT TO P. C. S. CADRE IN THE STATE.

*3083. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of vacancies in the P. C. S. (Executive) that have been filled during the year ending 31st March 1951;

(b) the number of vacancies filled on each register;

(c) the number of vacancies in the P. C. S (Executive) that are kept in reserve on each occasion when vacancies occur;

(d) whether it is a fact that vacancies have not been reserved for Harijans on the different registers; if so, the manner in which the Government propose to give their due share to the Harijans in the recruitment to the P. C. S. (Executive).

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) 11.

(b) Register A II Ministerial Government servants. 1. Registar B. Competitive examination-10.

(c) No specific number is kept in reserve.

(d) No. One vacancy was reserved on Register A-II which was duly filled by a Harijan. No. Harijan appeared in the competitive examination and therefore no vacancy could be reserved for them on Register 'B'.

(a) the number of applications received from Harijan candidates for recruitment to the P. C. S. during the current year;

(b) the number of Harijans who have been recommended by the different departments;

(c) the number of Harijans who applied direct for recruitment to the service;

(d) whether any Board has been constituted by the Government to select suitable Harijan Candidates out of the applicants for the vacancies in the P. C. S. reserved for them; if not, whether the selection is made by the Punjab Public Service Commission ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) None.

(b) 12.

(c) 5.

(d) The Punjab Public Service Commission have been requested be recommend suitable candidates for P. C. S. (Executive Branch) from among Harijan candidates, after interviewing them.

PERCENTAGE OF HARIJANS IN THE P. C. S.

*3085. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be to pleased to state the percentage of the Harijans in the cadre of the P. C. S. (Executive) ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: 0.53%

Mehta Ranbir Singh: What steps are being taken by the Government make up the 15 per cent representation which has been fixed for the Harijans ?

Chief Minister: This percentage has been fixed for the future and it has nothing to do with what had been done in the past.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I wish to know as to what steps are being

[**Mehta Ranbir Singh**]

taken by the Government to make the Harijans eligible for the 15 per cent representation which has been fixed for them?

Chief Minister: Instructions have been sent to all the departments that 15 percent representation must be given to Harijans in all selections.

Shri Ram Sharma: Has 15 percent representation been given to the Harijans ever since this decision has been taken ?

Chief Minister : I am not in a position to give an exact reply to this question, but I think that the actual representation given is less than this percentage.

Shri Ram Sharma: Then what steps are being taken by the Government to make up the deficiency ?

Chief Minister: An explanation has been demanded from the departments and necessary steps will be taken when requisite information has been received.

ENFORCEMENT OF SECTION 144 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE IN THE STATE.

*3088. **Sardar Kabul Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister please lay the following information on the Table :-

(a) The number of times when Section 144 Criminal Procedure Code was enforced in the different districts of the State together with the duration on each occasion during the period 15-8-1947 to 28-2-1951.

(b) A comparative statement giving information similar to that asked for in part (a) above for the same period prior to 15th August, 1947.

The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: Two statements concerning all districts except Hissar, Karnal and Ambala are laid on the table.† Information regarding the latter three districts is being collected and will be communicated to the hon. Membersh ortly.

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* Kept in the Library.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: What was the reason that led to the enforcement of the section 144 in the districts of Ludhiana and Ferozepore so often ?

Chief Minister: Section 144 has to be enforced at places where it becomes necessary to do so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Why did 1100 Akalis at Ludhiana parade the streets with naked swords in their hands when carrying of arms and lathis was banned at that place ?

Chief Minister: I can't give any definite information about this question at present.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is not the carrying of Kirpan by the Sikhs allowed under the Constitution ?

Chief Minister: Yes, it is.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: But is it not culpable to carry Kirpans in the procession ?

Chief Minister: It would be culpable only if it was prohibited by the language of the order.

=———

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PASSING OF NALLAH THROUGH THE LANDS OF VILLAGE NURWALA AND KALS, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

*708. **Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any nallah (Rohi) passes through the lands of villages Nurwala and Kals, Tehsil Patti, district Amritsar ;

(b) whether the lands of these villages situate on the Pakistan side were irrigated by the water channels which now pass through Pakistan and since the partition are not accessible to the Indians;

(c) the area of land irrigated by these channels in each of these villages before the partition ;

Sardar Sajjan Singh :

(d) the steps, if any, taken by the Government for the irrigation of the area of lands referred to in part (b) above and the results thereof ;

(e) the area under the command of each of the canal outlets which used to irrigate the lands of each of these villages before partitioln from the water channels belonging to India and the wat er channes belonging to Pakistan, respectively ;

(f) (i) whether the evacuee lands which used to be irrigated Pakistani channels have been regarded as Nahri for allotment purposes ; if so, the reasons purpose ;

(ii) whether Government proposes to value these lands as barani for allotment purposes ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: The information is being collect-ted and will be supplied to the hon.Member when ready.

MULTI PURPOSE SOCIETIES IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR

709. **Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) the number of the applications received from the different villages of Amritsar district for forming multi-purpose societies by the district authorities from 1-3-50 to 28-2-51 ;

(ii) the list of the villages concerned;

(b) the number of the societies formed and approved up to 28-2-51 along with the name of each village ;

(c) the number of the applications rejected together with the reasons therefor in each case ;

(d) the number of the applications still pending ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

(a) (i) 25

(ii) (1) Manga Sarai.

(2) Dashmes Garh.

(3) Kotla Dhal Singh.

(4) Mano Chahl Kalan & Khurd.

(5) Kote Data.

(6) Lal Pur.

(7) Deccan, Horse Multipurpose Society, Amritsar.

(8) Margindpura.

(9) Shahid.

(10) Pandori Gola.

(11) Nathu-ka-Buraj.

(12) Naurangabad.

(13) Narli Sikh.

(14) Hadaitpura.

(15) Sialka.

(16) Ramdas

(17) Adliwala Patti Nonian

(18) Bal Khurd.

(19) Chogawan

(20) Kaler Bala Pain.

(21) Burwala Patti Sant Singh

(22) Kirtowala Kohna

(23) Mari Megha Sikh.

(24) Dasuwal

(25) Minhala Jai Singh store.

(b) First part : 14.

Minister for Education.

Second part.—(1) Manga Sarai.

(2) Dashmesh Garh

(3) Kotla Dal Singh.

(4) Mano Chahl Kalan & Khurd.

(5) Lalpur.

(6) Kote Data

(7) Deccan Horse Multi purpose Society, Amritsar.

(8) Pandori Gola.

(9) Nathu-ka-Burj

(10) Naurangabad.

(11) Narli Sikh.

(12) Hadaitpura.

(13) Sialka.

(14) Ramdas.

(c) Nil.

(d) 11

IRRIGATION WELLS IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR

710. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of irrigation wells (persian wheels) in each tehsil of Amritsar district situated in evacuee lands which were damaged during the riots of 1947-48 ;

(b) the number of wells referred to in part (a) above for the repairs of

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which *taccavi* was given up to 31st December 1950;

(c) the number of wells accutally repaired up to 28th February 1951;

(d) (i) the action, if any, taken by the Government against the persons who took the *taccavi* loans for the repairs of the wells but failed to do so within the specified time;

(ii) whether loans given to them have been taken back; if so, what was the loan due, and to what extent recovery has been made in each case;

(iii) the reasons for not recovering the amount in full?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail: The required information is given below:

Name of Tehsil.

	Amritsar	Ajanla	Tarn Taran	Patti	Total
(a)	448	704	283	85	1520
(b)	221	272	114	16	623
(c)	221	272	114	16	623

(d) (i)
(ii) } Does not arise, in view of reply at 'C' above.
(iii)

CONSTRUCTION OF TUBE WELLS IN THE STATE.

711. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:—

(a) (i) the amount given for the construction of Tube wells in the State upto 31st December 1950;

(ii) the number of the wells for which it was given;

(b) (i) the number of the Tubewells constructed upto 28th February, 1951 in the state and the area they are irrigating;

Sardar Sajjan Singh ;

(ii) the number of the Tube wells under construction.

(c) the area which is being irrigated by the Tube wells in each District.

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.	AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
(a) (i) Rs. 43, 93, 500.	35 Lakhs roughly. The cost of construction of tubewells including expenditure on establishment, purchase of machinery, pipes and strainers etc. is entirely paid by the landlords for whom the tubewells are sunk by Agriculture Department on "No profit-no loss" basis. No loan or subsidy is being given.
(ii) 256 tubewells are to be constructed under Jagadhri Tubewell Scheme and the estimated cost is Rs 1, 25,00,000.	Does not arise.
(b) (i) 18 tubewells have been completed and are being fitted with pumps and Motors and will start working shortly.	207 tubewells at the expense of landlords have been completed and the area being irrigated is 15743 acres.
(ii) Out of 256 tubewell contract for 225 tubewells has been given to a firm and 31 tubewells are being constructed departmentally.	58 tubewells at landowners expenses.
(c) None at present.	The area being irrigated districtwise by the tubewells is as under:— 1. Gurgaon District 73 acres. 2. Hissar. " 164 acres. 3. Rohtak. " 219 acres.

4.	Karnal.	"	2093 acres.
5.	Ambala.	"	1033 acres.
6.	Ludhiana.	"	1570 acres.
7.	Ferozepur.	"	1185 acres.
8.	Jullundur.	"	4513 acres.
9.	Hoshiarpur.	"	1612 acres.
10.	Amritsar.	"	2934 acres.
11.	Gurdaspur.	"	365 acres
	Total:—		15743 acres.

STANDING ACCOMMODATION FOR PASSENGERS IN THE OMNI BUSES

712. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there is any authorised standing accommodation provided for the passengers in that Omni Buses which ply between Amritsar and Jullundur;

(b) whether there is any authorised standing accommodation provided for the passengers in the Omni Buses which ply between Amritsar and Jandiala ; Amritsar and Majitha ; Amritsar and Ajnala ; Amritsar and Sur Singh ; Amritsar and Taran Taran ; Amritsar and Attari ; Amritsar and Sarhali respectively;

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative and part (b) in the affirmative, the reasons therefor not before 23rd March, 1951.

The Hon. Sardar Kartar Singh:

(a) No authorised standing accommodation is provided on this route as this is a district route.

(b) Yes.

(c) This concession has been allowed as a temporary measure as these routes are being treated as urban routes so far. However, the matter as to whether they have to be classified as urban or district routes is under consideration.

RESTORATION OF CONFISCATED OF PROPERTIES POLITICAL SUFFERERS IN THE STATE.

713. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the names of the political sufferers (ex-political prisoners,) who applied to the Government between 15th August 1947 and 28th February 1951 for the restoration of their confiscated properties together with their full home addresses;

(b) the nature of the property confiscated in each case;

(c) the relevant provision of the law or the case under which the properties referred to above were confiscated;

(d) the claim put forward by each of the persons referred to in part (a) above;

(c) the action, if any, taken by the Government in each case so far ?

The Hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a), (b), (d), and (e). A statement containing the desired information is attached.*

(c) It is regretted that the informationasked for is not readily available and the time and trouble involved incollecting it will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

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SUPPLY OF BARSATIES TO BOATMEN AT HARIKE AND OTHER FERRIES IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

714. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Public works be pleased to state:—

(a) Whether any barsaties (water proof coats) were supplied to the boatmen at Harike and other ferries of Amritsar District before partition during the rainy season; ...

(b) Whether the supply of the same has been stopped after partition; if so, the reason therefor;

(c) Whether Government proposed to reintroduce the old system ?

The Hon. Captain Ranjit Singh: ...

(a) No. ...

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

715. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:—

(a) Whether in any of the villages of Tahsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar, the work of consolidation of land holdings was taken up and some progress was made after the deposit of fees during the year 1950; if so, the list of such villages:—

(b) Whether any of the villages referred to in part (a) above were transferred to the jurisdiction of Patti Tahsil during the year 1950;

(c) Whether it has been decided that the consolidation of holdings in the Tarn Taran Tahsil be taken in hand first during the year 1951 :

(d) Whether the consolidation of the villages referred to in part (b)

above which was taken in hand will be completed notwithstanding their transfer to Patti Tahsii, if not, the persons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh:

Minister for Revenue :

Second part ; The names of villages are given below:—

Serial No.		Name of village			Taran Tarn.	
1.	...	Rai Sihana.	...	...	do—	
2.	...	Daleka.	...	...	do—	
3.	...	Vain Poin	...	...	do—	
4.	...	Ghazi pur.	...	...	do—	
5.	...	Dugal wala.	...	...	do—	
6	...	Piddi.	...	...	do—	
7.	...	Rasulpur.	...	...	do—	
8.	...	Khojkipur.	...	...	do—	
9.	...	Walipur.	..	...	do=	
10.	...	Chak Mehar	...	...	do—	
11.	...	Chamba Khurd	...	...	do—	
12.	...	Tur	...	...	do—	
13.	...	Tanda.	...	...	do—	
14.	...	Jaura.	...	...	do=	Now in patti Tahsil.
15.	...	Gopala.	...	...	do—	

In addition two more villages namely Bhil-Dhahewala and Khadur Sahib were also taken up for consolidation in December, 1950 without previous deposit of consolidation fee.

(b) Yes. Two villages namely Jaura and Gopala at serial No. 14 and 15 above.

(c) Yes.

(d) First part ... Yes.

Second part... Does not arise.

VILLAGES OF AJNALA TEHSIL SITUATED ON RAVI RIVER FACING THE PAKISTAN BORDER.

716. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state:—

(a) (i) the list of the villages of Ajnala Tehsil which are situated on the other side of Ravi River facing the Pakistan border;

(ii) the cultivable area and the annual land revenue of each of these villages;

(b) the total area actually cultivated in and the land revenue recovered from each village during the last 3 years;

(c) (i) whether any of these villages are being inhabited by the people; if not, the reasons therefor;

(ii) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the rehabilitation of these villages; if not, the reasons therefor;

(iii) whether there is any revenue patwari posted in any of these villages; if so, his monthly pay and other expenses borne by Government ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh:

(a) (i) (ii)... ... ... and (b) ... ... } A statement is laid on the Table. *

(c) (i) ... ... No. It is insecure to go to Pakistan ide of the river.

(ii) ... ... It is not in public interest to reply to this part of the question.

(iii) ... ... No separate patwaris are posted in these villages as they form parts of other patwaris, circles on the Indian side of the river Ravi.

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BUS SERVICE BETWEEN AMRITSAR AND CHOGAWAN.

717. **SARDAR SAJJAN SINGH :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Omni-B us service is being plied between Amritsar and Chogawan;

(b) whether a pacca tarred road has been extended from Chogawan, District Amritsar to village Kakkar, District Amritsar, a distance of seven miles ;

(c) whether the inhabitants of Kakkar and other villages situated on the other side of the road, referred to in part (b) above, applied to the Omnibus authorities at Amritsar to extend the service upto village Kakkar ; if so, the decision, if any, arrived at in the matter by the authorit es concerned?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

(a) Yes, since December, 1950.

(b) The road between Chagawan and Kakkar is still under construction.

(c) Yes, a representation was received for extension of transport facilities between Chagawan and Kakkar, but as the operation was difficult in the absence of motorable road, the signatories were informed by the General Manager that the question of introduct on of service would be considered on completion of the road.

———

IMPOSITION OF CANAL WATER TAWAN ON THE CULTIVATORS OF VILLAGE SIDHWAN, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

718. **SARDAR SAJJAN SINGH :**—Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any canal water Tawan was imposed on the cultivators of village Sidwan, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, by an order dated 9th April 1949 of the Divisional Canal Officer, Majitha Division, Upper Bari Doab Canal, Amritsar ;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that two of the cultivators appealed against the order referred to in part (a) above to the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, who vide his order dated 28th July, 1950 held the imposition of this Tawan illegal and allowed the appeal ;

(c) whether the representation sent under registered cover of S. Kartar Singh and other cultivators of this village was received by the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab on 2nd March, 1951 for the refund of the Tawan imposed ; if so, the decision, if any, arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Appeal was accepted by the Commissioner.

(c) Yes. The matter is under investigation.

FALSE CLAIMS FILED BY DISPLACED LAND-OWNERS IN THE STATE.

719. **SARDAR SAJJAN INGH** :— Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

a) whether the displaced land-owners who had filed partly false (exaggerated) claims are given any chance to put up their defence before deductions from their claims as penalty, are made ;

(b) the number of the persons referred to in part (a) in each district of the State from whose claims penalty cuts are to be made according to the scrutiny made up to 28th February, 1951;

(c) (i) the number of the persons referred to in part (a) above whose cases were disposed of up to 28th February 1951 ;

(ii) the number of cases in which penalty cuts were ordered up to 28th February, 1951 and the total area deducted thereby ;

(iii) the number of the cases in which no penalty cuts were ordered up to 28th February, 1951 and the reasons therefor in each case, in brief ;

[**Sardar Sajjan Singh**]

(d) the number of the persons referred to in part (c) (ii) above who were served with notices to put up their defence before final disposal of their cases ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

The information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

REVIEW APPLICATIONS REGARDING THE ALLOTMENT OF LANDS IN THE STATE

720. **SARDAR SAJJAN SINGH :**—Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of review applications regarding the allotment of lands received under each of the different categories set up for the purpose in each District up to 28th February, 1951 ;

(b) (i) whether the applicants referred to in part (a) above were personally served with notices by the authority investigating their complaints preliminarily regarding the date and place of hearing their complaints ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(ii) whether they were called upon to furnish their evidence to prove the complaints ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) (i) whether the applicants referred to in part (a) above will be personally served with notices to appear on a fixed date and plead their cases before the Deputy Commissioners or the Director General, Rehabilitation at the intermediate or final stages ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(ii) the number of cases in which counsels have been allowed to appear in these review applications upto 28th February, 1951 ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

The information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

FINE CLOTH QUOTA APPORTIONED FOR TEHSIL PATTI DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

721. **SARDAR SAJJAN SINGH :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the quota for fine cloth apportioned for Patti Tehsil in the month of February, 1951;

(b) whether full quota was given to the cloth dealers of Patti during February, 1951; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the cloth dealers could not take their full quota of cloth owing to their failure to deposit the required money within the specified period; if so, the steps Government purposes to take against the cloth dealers to avoid reccurrence of such an happening ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) 10½ bales and 28 pieces.

(b) Full quota was given.

(c) The cloth dealers of Patti could not lift 39 bales out of their full quota of coarse cloth within the prescribed time-limit. Government would be prepared to take suitable action against the dealers in case the latter persistently default in the lifting of their quota.

REVENUE PATWARIS IN TEHSIL AJNALA, DISTRICT AMRITSAR

722. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of the revenue patwaris in Ajnala Tehsil of Amritsar District at present ;

(b) the number of the revenue patwaris referred to in part (a) above who are posted within 10 miles of their native villages if; so, the reasons therefore ;

(c) whether Government proposes to transfer them to places which may be at a distance of more than 10 miles from their homes; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The Hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) 101 Patwaris—96 Assistant Patwaris—5

(b) No revenue patwari referred to in part (a) above is posted within 10 miles of his native village.

(c) Does not arise.

REVENUE PATWAR CIRCLES IN TEHSIL AJNALA, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

723. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Revenue Patwar Circles in Ajnala Tehsil of Amritsar District ;

(b) the number of the circles in which Patwar Khanas are intact and fit for human occupation ;

(c) (i) the number of the circles without any Patwar Khanas ;

(ii) whether the Patwaris of the circles referred to in part (c) (i) are being paid any rent according to the rules; if so, their number ;

(iii) the number of the patwaris referred to in part (c) (ii) above who were actually paid the rent due for November and December, 1950 respectively :

(iv) the number of patwaris to whom no rent for these months was paid together with the the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) 96.

(b) 3 Patwar Khanas are intact and one has collapsed during the last heavy rains and floods.

(c) (i) 92.

(ii) Out of 92 patwaris, 15 patwaris are being paid rent according to rules. The other patwaris have occupied rent free houses and are not entitled to rent.

(iii) Four patwaris were paid rent for November, 1950, and two for December, 1950.

(iv) No rent was paid to 11 patwaris in November, 1950 and to 13 in December, 1950 for want of the receipt for payment of rent.

SEATING ARRANGEMENT IN BUSES IN THE STATE.

724. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether under the rules it is essential for the private Transport Companies who ply passengers' buses in the State to provide accomodation for upper and lower class passengers in every bus ;

(b) whether the rule referred to in part (a) above is also being enforced in the case of Omnibus service run by the State Government; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether any representations were made by any of the private Transport Companies during 1949—50 for doing away with the classification in the seating arrangements of their buses and permitting them the same seating arrangements as exist in the Omnibuses; if so, the decision, if any, arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

(a) No.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No. Representations from the public were, however, received that the existing layouts of the buses of private Transport Companies should be in accordance with the seating layout of the Omnibuses. Steps are being taken to revise the seating layouts but no final decision has yet been taken,

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ALLOTMENT OF LAND AT VILLAGES MIANWALA, WALTOHA AND DAUDPURA, DISTRICT AMRISAR.

725. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister ior Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any cases came to the notice of the Amritsar District Authorities during the year 1950 of villages Mianwala, Waltoha and Daudpura, Tehsil Patti, wherein the rightful temporary allottees were not put in possession of their allotted lands during the year 1947—48 and thereafter; if so, the number of such cases in each of these villages, together with the total area of land in each village ;

(b) whether the areas of land referred to in part (a) above were allotted temporarily to some other persons; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) (i) whether the persons in possession of these areas have been charged rent at 6 times the land revenue; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(ii) whether the Government proposes to charge rent at the rate of 6 times the land revenue from those in unauthorised possession ; if not, the reasons therefore ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

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CANAL OUTLETS IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

726. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total area under the command of each of the canal of outlets which irrigate the lands of villages Man, Jand, Mahneke, Talwandi, Sobha Singh, Talwandi Mutsadda Singh, Sabraon, Sur Singh, Mastgarh Gajjal, Manawan, Nurwala, Harike, Booh and Sugga of Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar ;

(b) (i) the permissible area under each outlet ;

(ii) the area actually irrigated by each of these outlets during the years 1948—49, 1949—50, and 1950—51, respectively ;

(c) (i) whether there has been any deficiency in the irrigateda rea during the last three years ; if so, to what extent and the reasons therefor ;

(ii) the steps, if any, Government proposes to take to make up this deficiency ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

A statement showing the requisite information is enclosed *

CONSTRUCTION OF HARIJAN COLONY AT JULLUNDUR CITY.

727. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) whether Government has decided to construct a Harijan colony within the Municipal area of Jullundur City; if so, when its construction is proposed to be taken in hand;

(ii) the area of land to be acquired for this purpose ;

(b) whether any wheat or other crops are standing in the area referred to in part (a) (ii) above; if so, the manner in which these are to be disposed of ;

(c) whether owners or lesses of those standing crops have sent representations asking for postponement of the construction of the colony till Rabi, 1951, so that they may be able to cut the standing crops by that time ; if so, the decision, if any, arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) (i) The Government have not decided to construct any housing colony specifically for Harijans within the Municipal area of Jullundur City. Presumably the reference is to construction of a Cheap Housing Colony for displaced persons on Nakodar Road behind the Bhargava Camp, Jullundur City, wherein displaced Harijans living in camps in Jullundur will also be eligible to purchase houses. 39.44

* Kept in the Library.

[Minister for Rehabilitation].

acres of land for this purpose have been requisitioned and the P. W. D. have let out the work of construction of 350 houses at the site.

(ii) The area of the land to be acquired for the Cheap Housing Colony behind Bhargava Camp, Jullundur City, is 39.44 acres.

(b) Some crops are standing in a part of the site mentioned in (a) above but the possession of the land under crops has not been given to the P. W. D. The P. W. D. are starting work of construction only on the vacant land possession whereof has been delivered to them. As for the land under crops, it will remain in the possession of the cultivators till the crops are cut, whereafter it will be transferred to the P. W. D.

(c) In view of the position as explained in (b) above, no representation has been received from the owners or lessees of the standing crops for the postponement of construction work till Rabi, 1951.

PURCHASE OF RICE BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

728. **Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) the total quantity of rice purchased by the State Government during the period 1st August 1950, to 31st December, 1950;

(ii) the total amount spent for the purchase of the above-mentioned rice ;

(iii) the total incidental charges thereon up to 31st December, 1950;

(iv) the average purchasing price of the rice per maund ;

(v) the average incidental charges per maund up to 31st December, 1950;

(b) (i) the total quantity of rice exporated to each of the deficit States during the period specified in part (a) (i) above ;

(ii) the total amount received as its selling price from each State ;

(iii) the average selling price of the rice exported per maund referred

to above ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

(a) (i) 1,30,904 maunds.

(ii) Rs. 20,71,110.

(iii) Incidental charges incurred on rice are not separately booked in accounts and cannot, therefore, be stated.

		Rs. as. ps.
(iv) Basmati and sela Basmati.	—	24 3 10
Parmal, Hansraj, Mushkin, and their sela.	—	22 3 11
Mongra of Basmati, sela Basmati, Parmal, Hansraj, Mushkin and their sela.	—	17 4 0
Sone, Begmi, Dara, Sela Joshi, Santhi.	—	15 4 11
White tota and Kani.	—	11 1 4

(v) Does not arise in view of iii above.

(b) (i) Assam.	—	13,926 maunds
Defence Services.	—	500 maunds
Himachal Pradesh.	—	2,496 maunds
Bombay.	—	2,12,743 maunds
(ii) Assam.		2,11,634
Defence Services.		9,399
Himachal Pradesh.		48,023
Bombay.		43, 67, 647

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(iii) Basmati and Sela Basmati.	26/3/-
Parmal, Hansraj, Mushkin, and Sela of these varieties.	24/3/-
Mongra of Basmati, Sela Basmati, Parmal, Hansraj, Mushkin and their sela.	19/2/-
Sone, Begmi, Dara, sela and joshi, santhi.	17/3/-
White tota and Kani.	12/13/-

HOUSES REQUISITIONED FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AT TARN TARAN, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

729. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of the houses requisitioned by the Government at Tarn Taran, District Amritsar up to 31st July, 1950, for the accommodation of the Government Officers;

(b) (i) whether any of the owners of these houses applied to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar on or about 15th August, 1950, for the derequisition of their houses ; if so their number ;

(ii) the reasons put forward for derequisitioning by the applicants ;

(c) whether any officer was deputed by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar to make enquiries on the spot, if so whether any report was sent by this officer after enquiry on the spot ;

(d) (i) whether the report of this officer was received by the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar before 30th November, 1950, if so, the final orders passed by the Deputy Commissioner, thereon ;

(ii) whether the house owners referred to in part (b) (i) above were intimated about the orders passed ; if so, when, if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) (i) whether any houses were derequisitioned ; if so, when, and, their number ;

(ii) whether the possession of the houses referred to in part (e) (i) above has been restored to the owners so far ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Two ;

(b) (i) The owners of one of the requisitioned houses applied for de-requisitioning on the 23rd August, 1950.

(ii) The reasons put forth for de-requisitioning were that the house occupied by them was too small to accommodate all the members of their families and that it was in a dilapidated condition.

(c) Yes.

(d) (i) The report was received on 18th December, 1950. It was decided to de-requisition the house after providing alternative accommodation to the occupants. A house has now been selected and the proceedings for its requisitioning have been started.

(ii) No ; final orders were to be issued after suitable alternative accommodation had been found.

(e) (i) No.

(ii) Does not arise.

SHIFTING OF VETERINARY HOSPITAL IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

730. **SARDAR SAJJAN SINGH** :—Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the District Board, Amritsar passed any resolution in September, 1949 to shift the Veterinary Hospital from Village Bhindur to Village Naushera Panuan, Tahsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar ;

(b) whether this resolution ahs been acted upon ; if so, when ;

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(c) whether any Veterinary Assistant has been posted to Veterinary Hospital, Naushera Panuan referred to in part (a) above ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) the date by which the Government propose to send a Veterinary Assistant to the aforesaid Veterinary Hospital ?

The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh :

(a) The District Board passed a resolution in September, 1949 to shift the Outlying Veterinary Dispensary and not Veterinary Hospital from Village Bhindur to Naushera Panuan, Tahsil Tarn Taran.

(b) Yes, from 7th February, 1950.

(c) Veterinary Assistant Surgeons/Veterinary Assistants are sanctioned for regular veterinary hospitals only. Since Naushera Panuan is an Outlying Dispensary no post of Veterinary Assistant Surgeon I Veterinary Assistant is sanctioned for this dispensary.

(d) In the ordinary course, Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Veterinary I Assistant can be posted to this Outlying Dispensary when it is converted into a Veterinary Hospital. However, if and when Veterinary Assistant Surgeon/Veterinary Assistant becomes available out of the 15% leave reserve, one will be posted there temporarily.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND AT VILLAGE WALTOHA, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

731. **SARDAR SAJJAN SINGH.** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state the action, if any, taken by the Director-General Rehabilitation, about a case referred to him, vide my letter No. 1301, dated 10th September 1950 in which a certain displaced person of village Sarhali Kalan Tahsil Kasur, was allotted land at village Waltoha, Tahsil Patti, though he was owning no land in his ancestral village in Pakistan ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

The information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT.

732. **SARDAR SAJJAN SINGH.** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing :—

(1) the names of the officers together with their designations in the Publicity Department including that of the P. A. (Publicity) to the hon. Chief Minister ;

(2) the starting pay of each of them per month.;

(3) the date of recruitment of each of them ;

(4) the present pay per month of each of them ;

(5) the academic qualifications of each of them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The information is given in the enclosed statement *

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

733. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of all Heads of Departments of the State Government ;

(b) the present pay per month of each of them ;

(c) the date of recruitment of each of them ;

(d) the starting pay per month of each one of them as Head of Department ;

(e) the dearness, temporary allowances and special pay per month drawn by each of them respectively at present ;

(f) the academic qualifications of each of them ;

(g) the age of each of them on 1st March 1951 ;

(h) the salary per month each of them was getting on 14th August 1947;

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* Kept in the library

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The required information is available from the Civil Lists and the hon. Member may refer to those publications.

QUARTERING OF ADDITIONAL POLICE POSTS AT VILLAGES AUJLA, GOMDIWIND, ETC.

734. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any additional police posts were quartered under section 15 of the Police Act at village Aujla, district Gurdaspur, village Gomdiwind, police station Sarhali, district Amritsar and at villages Kacha Pakka, Makhi Kalan, and Sur Singh, police station Bhikhiwind, district Amritsar, during 1949 or 1950 ; if so, the dates thereof ;

(b) (i) the number and nature of the crimes pertaining to each of the villages referred to in part (a) above brought to the notice of the Government before approval in each case to quarter the additional police posts ;

(ii) the period to which the crimes referred to in part (b) (i) above pertained ;

(c) the number of persons of each of the villages referred to in part (a) above who were arrested and convicted for the crimes referred to in part (b) (i) above ;

(d) (i) the number, date and part of the Government notifications published in the Government Gazette for quartering the Additional Police Posts in each of the aforesaid villages ;

(ii) the population of each of these villages ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The required information is enclosed. *

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* Kept in the Library

ALLOTMENT OF HOUSES TO DISPLACED PERSONS AT VILLAGE KHONDA, DISTRICT GURDASPUR.

735. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the allotment of houses to displaced persons at village Khonda, District Gurdaspur has been completed ;

(b) (i) the number of the evacuee houses reserved or allotted to the landless displaced persons in this village ;

(ii) the list of the persons referred to in part (b) (i) above, who have been allotted houses up to now in this village ;

(c) whether the actual possession of the houses referred to in part (b) (ii) above has been given to each of the allottees; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

(a) Yes.

(b) (i) 115 houses have been allotted to the displaced landless persons.

(ii) The required list is placed on the Table.*

(c) Yes.

OCCUPATION OF LAND BY GOVERNMENT AT VILLAGES MOGA AJIT SINGH AND SINGHANWALA, DISTRICT FEROZEPORE.

736. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) whether any lands were occupied by the Government at villages Moga Ajit Singh and Singhanwala, Tahsil Moga, District Ferozepore during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st December 1949 for a relief camp ; if so, when ;

(ii) the total area occupied in each village ;

(b) (i) whether any intimations were given to the owners of the lands

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before occupation ; if so, when; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(ii) whether there were any standing crops on these lands ; if so, the manner in which these were disposed of ;

(iii) whether any compensation was paid to the owners of these lands in lieu of the standing crops before 31st December 1950 ; if so, when; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) whether the land owners referred to in part (b) (i) above submitted any representations to the authorities for compensation for the standing crops before 31st December 1949 ; if so, when ;

(d) (i) the provision of law under which the lands under reference were occupied by the Government ;

(ii) whethery any settlement regarding the rents to be paid was arrived at by the Government with the owners before their occupation if so, when. if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) (i) whether any papers regarding the compensation for crops on these lands were prepared and submitted to the Financial Commissioner or some other higher authority during 1949 or 1950; if so, when ;

(ii) the compensation which was fixed in the first instance ;

(iii) whether the papers referred to in part (c) (i) above were lost in transit, if so, when and under what circumstances ;

(iv) whether any enquiry was held regarding the loss of these papers; if so, with what result and the action, if any, taken by the Government in the matter ;

(f) (i) the reasons for delay in the payment of compensation for the standing crops or the rent since the day of occupation of these lands ;

(ii) the reasons for this delay ; and the action proposed to be taken in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail

(a) (i) Yes. The land was occupied by the Government in the villages of Moga Ajit Singh and Singhanwala, Tehsil Moga, District Ferozepore.

(ii) The total area occupied in these two villages is as under :—

		K	M
Moga Ajit Singh.	...	135—9	
Singhanwala.	...	560—3	

(b) (i) No intimation could be given to the owners before occupation of their land, in view of the emergency conditions necessitating the setting up of a transit camp in connection with Hyderabad Police action for which arrangements had to be kept secret.

(ii) There was no standing crop on these lands, though wheat and gram had been sown in some of the area, it being sowing sea son for Rabi crops. The question of the manner of disposal of standing crops does not therefore arise.

(iii) No. Compensation could not be paid before 31st December 1950 for want of completion of the compensation papers due to the Revenue staff having remained busy with land allotment work at Jullundur.

(c) Yes, a representation from the landowners for payment of compensation was rec eived in the headquarters office at Jullundur in July, 1949.

(d) (i) The District Magistrate, Ferozepore, should have requisitioned the land under the Punjab Requisitioning of Immovable Property (Temporary Powers) Act, but due to the afore-mentioned emergency conditions no formal orders in this respect could be passed by him.

(ii) No settlement regarding the rents to be paid was arrived at by the Government with the owners before occupation of their land, due to the aforementioned emergency conditions.

(e) (i) Yes, papers regarding compensation were prepared by the

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district authorities and submitted by them to the Financial Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation, in March, 1950.

(ii) No information is available for reasons given in (iii) below.

(iii) The papers referred to in (e) (i) above were forwarded in June, 1950 by the Deputy Commissioner, Ferozepore to the Sub Divisional officer, Moga, and could not be traced thereafter in spite of best efforts made in this behalf. Presumably they were lost in transit.

(iv) In the circumstances in which the loss of these papers occurred, it was not considered necessary to hold any enquiry into the conduct of any official. Immediate steps were taken by the Deputy Commissioner to get a new case of compensation prepared from the Sub-Divisional Officer, Moga.

(f) (i) The necessary statements for payment of compensation were completed through the Revenue staff on 8th August 1950. The delay in payment of compensation was due, firstly, to the loss of the papers previously prepared and secondly, to the absence of the Revenue staff for a long time from the district, due to their transfer to Jullundur in connection with the work of quasi-permanent allotment of land. The final sanction of Government for payment of compensation was conveyed to the Deputy Commissioner in the beginning of February, 1951. The payment of compensation has since been made.

(ii) For reasons mentioned above, as the delay is not attributable to any official, no action is proposed to be taken in the matter.

WORKING CONDITIONS OF THE NEWSPAPERS IN THE STATE.

737. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any circular has been received by the State Government from the Government of India to enquire into the working conditions of the newspapers which are being published in the State and to take suitable steps to better the lot of the working journalists ; if so, the action so far taken by the State Government in the

matter ;

(b) if he will lay on the Table the rules regarding the constitution of the Press Advisory Committee brought into being by the State Government ;

(c) whether any representations have been received by the Government from the Punjab Union of the working journalists to give them representation on the Press Advisory Committee, if so, the decision, if any, arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) No.

(b) The Press Advisory Committee consists of eight members nominated by the Punjab Journalists' Association. There is also an Emergency Panel consisting of three members of the Committee elected by the Committee itself to advise Government on emergent cases. Government have reserved to themselves the right to nominate two members if and when they feel that the Committee as nominated by Punjab Journalists' Association does not represent all interests. The tenure of the Committee is three years which expires on the 12th September, 1951. The Committee has elected one of its members as Chairman and another as Secretary.

(c) Yes ; it is under consideration.

REGISTRATION OF CASE AGAINST SHRI VED PRAKASH, CLOTH INSPECTOR, AMRITSAR.

738. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any case was registered against Shri Ved Prakash, Cloth Inspector of Amritsar District, referred to in unstarred Assembly question No. 89, during the year 1949 or 1950 at Police Station Patti District Amritsar under Section 406/409, Indian Penal Code ;

(b) whether his werehabouts were traced ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) (i) whether his personal file was found missing when searched ; if so, the circumstances in which it was lost ;

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(ii) whether any enquiry was made by the authorities as to how the file was lost ; if so, the results thereof ;

(d) whether responsibility for the loss of the file referred to above was fixed ; if so on whom and the action taken so far in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. member when ready.

ADDITIONAL POLICE POST AT VILLAGE SUR SINGH DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

739. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the mode of assessment for the recovery of the costs of additional police post of village Sur Singh, District Amritsar which has been prepared and approved by the District Magistrate, Amritsar and if he will lay the same on the Table ;

(b) (i) the factors which have been taken into consideration by the District Magistrate, Amritsar for assessing higher rates of assessment in addition to the ordinary rates on the basis of land revenue and other sources of income ;

(ii) the list of the persons who have been placed in special, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades for assessment purposes ;

(iii) the reasons for putting each of the persons referred to above in the different grades ;

(c) the nature of the crimes committed and the punishments awarded by the Courts of law to each of the persons referred to in part (b) (ii) above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The mode of assessment for the recovery of the cost of the additional police post of village Sur Singh, District Amritsar, has not so far been prepared and approved by the District Magistrate Amritsar.

(b) (i), (ii), (iii) and (c) Do not arise.

ADDITIONAL POLICE POST AT VILLAGE MAKHI KALAN, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

740. **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the mode of assessment that has been prepared and approved by the District Magistrate, Amritsar for the recovery of costs of the Additional Police post of village Makhi Kalan, District Amritsar; and if he will lay the same on the Table;

(b) (i) the list of the persons who have been put in special, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades for purposes of higher assessment;

(ii) the rate of assessment of each of these grades;

(iii) the reasons for putting each of the persons in these grades;

(c) the nature of the crimes committed and the punishment awarded by the courts of Law to each of the persons referred to in part (b) (i) above?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

(a) The mode of assessment for the recovery of the cost of additional Police Post of village Makhi Kalan district Amritsar, has not so far been prepared and approved by the District Magistrate, Amritsar.

(b) (i), (ii), (iii) and (c) Do not arise.

ENTRY OF S. BAHADUR SINGH IN POLICE REGISTER NO. 10.

741. **Sardar Udham Singh:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the name of S. Bahadur Singh Member District Board son of S. Santa Singh of village Udonangal, Police Station Bias, District Amritsar, has been entered in Police Register No. 10; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is aware of the antecedents and standing of the person referred to above; if so, the action which the Government intends to take in the matter?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

ABNORMAL RISE IN THE CRIME OF MURDER IN ROHTAK DISTRICT

Shri Ram Sharma: Sir, I beg to ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the abnormal rise in the crime of murder within this month in the district of Rohtak, showing the failure of the Government to take necessary steps to do the needful.

If the hon. Chief Minister is prepared to give some satisfactory statement with regard to this matter, I shall not consider it necessary to speak much about it.

Chief Minister: Sir, when my hon. Friend talked with me about this Subject, I told him that I was not aware of the increase in the number of murder cases in Rohtak district during the current month, I also told him that usually average for the whole year is taken in determining the increase or decrease in crime. It is very likely that the number of murders committed in a particular month is large while in other months it is much less. It is not proper to say on the basis of the number of murders committed in that particular month that there has been an increase in crime. The Government can only pass laws and otherwise request the public to desist from committing crimes. There is no other way in which the Government can prevent commission of crime in the State. All those steps are taken which are considered necessary for the preservation of law and order The figures collected by the Government reveal that there has been decrease in the number of murders as compared with the last few years. I told my hon. Friend that if he so desired, I was prepared to discuss this matter with him in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, and Home Secretary to the Government If he wishes to suggest certain steps which he desires the Government to take, we will surely consider those and act on those as far as necessary. There was therefore no necessity of moving an adjournment motion on this subjec . When such a motion is moved, the Government

should be given an opportunity of examining the position with regard to it. It should also be examined as to how far it lies in the power of the Govenment to prevent the commission of murders and other such offences. According to my information, there has been increase in the number of cases of dacoity during the last two or three months. I am prepared to discuss all these matters with my hon. Friend. If he wants to discuss these matters in the House, I am prepared to provide time for that and if he wishes to discuss these personally, I am prepared for that also.

My hon. Friend also asked me for being given an opportunity of discussing the communal situation in the State through an adjournment motion. I told him that it would not be proper to discuss such things, because before moving an adjournment motion, it should be seen as to how far negligence on the part of the Government is responsible for the situation proposed to be discussed through it. As the Government is not responsible for this situation, I shall be prepared to discuss these matters with my hon. Friend in the presence of other Government officers. If he wishes to discuss these things in the House, I shall have no objection to allot separate time for that. I hope that this will satisfy my hon. Friend.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the hon. Chief Minister prepared to provide an opportunity to the House for discussing the situation created by the estrangement of relations between the Harijans and Sikhs in the State? That would provide us an opportunity of placing our point of view before the Government. It is not good to evade this matter.

Chief Minister : I object to the expression 'evade'. I have already stated that I am prepared to go into the matter. It is not just on the part of my hon. Friend to accuse me by saying that I want to postpone it.

Shri Ram Sharma : Sir, after hearing the hon. Chief Minister's statement, I do not think it necessary to press this motion. I wish to submit, however, that I do not agree with his observation that the Government is in no way responsible for this situation In my opinion the Government cannot be absolved of responsibility for increase in the number of cases of dacoity and murder in the State. As the Chief Minister has expressed his willingness to discuss this matter for devising means to control the situation, I do not wish to press my motion.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) :— I beg to propose and move.

That Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal do take the Chair of the Assembly as Deputy Speaker.

(The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail and Shri Bhim Sen Sachar rose simultaneously and seconded the motion).

Chairman (Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa) : Since no other member is proposed, I declare Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal elected as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly and call upon her to take the Chair.

(*Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal occupied the Chair amidst cheers*)

Deputy Speaker (Shrimati **Shanno Devi** Sehgal) (*Hindi*): Leader of the House and hon. Members, I am thankful to you for the honour that you have bestowed on an humble sister of yours. I also pray to God that I may be able to discharge properly the duties of the office of the Deputy Speaker which has been rightly or wrongly, or as a matter of favour, bestowed on me. With these words, I thank you all once again.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : I, on my own behalf and on behalf of the House, congratulate you on your occupying this position. I want to assure you that we have decided to entrust this office to you, after considering the fact that our rights are quite safe in your hands and you will conduct the proceedings of the House as befittingly as any Deputy Speaker would. I once again congratulate you and assure you full support, on my own behalf and on behalf of the House.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam Deputy Speaker, I have stood up to heartily congratulate you on behalf of the whole House and to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House. It is the first occasion in the history of the Punjab Legislative Assembly when an hon. Lady Member has been elected as Deputy Speaker. (*Cheers*) It has so happened that you have got the right to occupy the Chair immediately after your election on account of the absence of the hon. Speaker. I am glad to submit that our sisters have to share equal responsibility with their brethren in the coming era of freedom which has been

achieved after great hardships. The honour of unanimously electing an hon. Lady Member as our Deputy Speaker goes to the Punjab Assembly. It is all the more gratifying that an hon. Sister has been elected to this office unanimously. Although the duties of the Deputy Speaker which include catching her eye by the hon. Members, are quite onerous, yet I assure you our full support in the discharge of these duties by you. We shall gladly accept your decisions in the matter of calling the hon. Members to speak. I assure you, Madam, that we shall try to maintain greater order especially when you will be in the Chair and we shall try to build better traditions in the House.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*) : Respected Deputy Speaker, it is a matter of gratification that one of our sisters has been elected to the exalted office of the Deputy Speaker today. So far we had been considering ourselves just orphans in this House because Lady Members had always been ignored. But today this House has by electing you to this exalted office proved that we are not ignored on every occasion. I have no hesitation in saying that this honour has gone to one whose name we heard with reverence in our early days. You have uplifted women not only politically but educationally and socially as well. You have been trying to uplift the women of our State in every way and I am now proud that you have been elected Deputy Speaker. So far, it has been said that we are only three Lady Members in this House. But now I think there will be greater discipline here and we shall be able to take our State forward like the women of other States. With these words, Madam, I congratulate you on your election as Deputy Speaker.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Punjabi*): Madam I express my joy at your election as Deputy Speaker. I have greater pleasure than that expressed by Sardar Swaran Singh and the hon. Lady Member, because I feel that I am nearer to the class to which you belong. I think Harijans and women belong to the same backward class.

I am sure you will safeguard the interests of Harijans who are a backward class like women. I have confidence that now the interests of the eleven backward Members of this House will have priority. With these words I once again congratulate you on your occupying this important position.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, rural) (*Hindi*): Madam, I join the other hon. Members in congratulating you on your election as Deputy Speaker. In this matter I am reminded of my college days when professors used to say that co-education was the best check upon unruly students' activities. Now, Madam, in your presence the hon. Members will show discipline. I hope that your personality will restore the dignity of the House. We shall gladly submit to your orders.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: Otherwise she will turn you out. (*laughter*)

Mehta Ranbir Singh: With these words I again congratulate you and resume my seat.

Sardar Partap Singh (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I extend my heartiest congratulations to you on your occupying this office and to the House for its wise decision in this matter. It is after a long time that this House has done an act which has raised this State in the eyes of the world. It had been felt that the hon. Lady Members in this State occupied no place of responsibility in the administration. We have never chosen a lady member to be a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary in Punjab after partition. We cannot deny that the women in general and these lady members in particular have been working and making sacrifices along with their brethren. It has been our earnest desire to see them occupying places of responsibility and authority. Today this House has given proof of this desire and the country will appreciate it and I hope the day is not far off when women will occupy Ministers, chairs as well.

Pandit Durga Chand Kaushish (Ambala Division, Landholders); Madam, Deputy Speaker, you may not imagine how happy I am today to see you in the Chair. I feel happier when I just remember the words of the late Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore that woman is the custodian of the mental, the moral and the material stability of a house. (*Here, hear*) I have no doubt that under your wise guidance and particularly under your influence we would achieve that stability. Madam, we are all aware of your great sacrifices, your services to our people and the great part you played as the Principal of a College and as an educationist. We hope that the constructive work that you have carried on all through your life will be continued here and we will be benefitted by your wise counsels and guidance. I have also no doubt that you will carry on the same great traditions which your predecessor has established.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I wish to join others in extending my heartiest congratulations to you on your election as Deputy Speaker I know of your work since long and I can say that you have been working honestly and diligently in the service of the people and the country. This House has done well in honouring you for that. In other countries of the world women occupy places of responsibility and power. Here in India also from times immemorial women have been respected and honoured. The very fact that in *puja* people utter the words Sita and Radhe before Ram and Sham show how much women are respected.

Shrimati Sita Devi : It is good that you too realise it.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : I have not referred to Shrimati Sita Devi. I am referring to the Sita of Ramayana *(laughter)* Madam, my submission is that in the past we have duly honoured women and even now we honour them and respect them. It is our desire that even the position of the Chief Minister may also be occupied by a Lady Member. I hope that step by step the ladies will rise to such positions. Even a mantra of the vedas begins with the word 'Shanno Devi'. The people of the Punjab will really feel flattered because they have given a high position to a lady. With these words, I resume my seat.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Urban (*Hindi*): Madam, it is really a happy day in the history of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. Considering your ability, intelligence and sagacity the choice which the House has made is, in fact, the best one. I join the Leader of the House and the hon Members in expressing the belief that as Deputy Speaker you will win the respect of all.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women Urban) (*Hindi*) : Madam, when I congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. Members also who have given proof of their good choice I am proud of the fact that although there are capable persons among the male members of this House, yet the hon. Lady Members are in no way inferior to them. Women are also capable of performing their duties as ably as men. It is a matter of pride that one of us has been selected for this position. As a matter of fact, our State has gone ahead of other States in India in

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recognising the equality of sex and we can rightly feel proud of it. I once again congratulate the House for this wise and good choice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, the very fact that this House has chosen you to work as Deputy Speaker should be a sufficient proof of your worth and I think that there was no need, for any remarks by the hon. Members. You deserve the position that has been given to you. I congratulate the House for its wise decision in this matter.

Madam, I consider your elevation to this position of high distinction as a matter of congratulations to me because now I have begun to feel that I belong to that galaxy of hon. Members who have taken a right decision to elect you as Deputy Speaker. I assure you, Madam, that I will obey your ruling whatever it may be. It is a matter of gratification for our State that a lady of your eminence has come to occupy this Chair. This will enthuse my other sisters also, because what we find today is the shape of things to come, Now the tradition is that a Deputy Speaker is elevated to the Ministerial gaddi and who knows that some day you may also become a Minister and then one of my other sisters may step into your place. With these words, I offer you heartiest congratulations on your election to the office of the Deputy Speaker

Minister for Public Works : (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I rise to associate myself with the felicitations that have been offered to you by my hon. Friends on your elevation to this eminent position by the unanimous vote of the House. One thing I have found remarkable in you is, that you command great respect even among the unruly elements in the House. They, too, have bowed before you and have assured you and through you the House of their fullest cooperation in the maintenance of the discipline and the dignity of the House. For this madam, you deserve all the more to be congratulated. I am convinced that the hon. Leader of the House has not shown any concession to hon. Lady Members by proposing your name for election to this high office. Here a person wielding great influence and a great disciplinarian like yourself was needed most and I am gratified that the hon. Leader as also the hon. Members have done well to elect you to this position of high distinction. I wish you success in the maintenance of discipline in the House and again congratulate you on your election as the Deputy Speaker of this Assembly

Minister for Revenue (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (***Punjabi***) **:** Madam, I offer you my heartiest congratulations on your election to this high office. I think the action of the hon. Members of the Punjab State Legislature in electing a distinguished woman like you will be commended by the people throughout the country. You possess great qualities of head and heart but the greatest that finds favour with me is that I find you more courageous than many men and the honour that has been done to you is fully deserved. With these words, I again congratulate you on your elevation to this high position.

Minister for Labour (The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad) (*Hindi*) : Madam, your elevation to this high position has reminded me of a shalok which means that God lives there where women are honoured. I think the path which the hon. Members have treaded by electing you unanimously, will lead to the salvation of the State. Since you started your public career, you have been rendering constructive service to the country Now this high office will offer you another opportunity to serve the people of the State still more vigorously. Your unanimous election indicates the respect which you command in the House. I hope you will conduct the business of the House in such a manner as will raise its estimation in the world. Besides, this House has shown by your election that women in this State do not lag behind in shouldering the onerous responsibilities of a high office in the State. They can stand shoulder to shoulder with men in the performance of their duties to the State. (*Hear, hear.*) With these words, I offer felicitations to you on your election to this position of distinction.

Deputy Speaker (*Hindi*): Honourable Members, before the House proceeds to the next item on the agenda, I would again like to thank you all for the encomiums that have been showered on me. The future will show how far I prove worthy of this high office. I feel so much overwhelmed with your praises that I do not find adequate words to express my gratitude to you. As you are aware, after the partition, I have refrained from making eloquent speeches. I feel and request the hon. Members to keep this fact in view, that our State is faced with such circumstances which require us to work more and talk less. Even in this House we have got enormous legislative work but we have not enough time to complete it and whatever time we get

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it is spent in making speeches. I think hon. Members will be discharging their duty towards the people if they make speeches containing constructive suggestions. Now the House will resume discussion on the cut motion moved by Pandit Shri Ram Sharma.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

IRRIGATION.

Sardar Sajjan Singh. (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, Government has put forward a huge demand for grant regarding Irrigation before the House. I think that the department of Irrigation is mostly connected with the zamindars and yet the irony is that it is the zamindars who suffer most at the hands of this department. I am of the opinion that the main cause of this trouble is the meagre salaries paid to the Government servants working in the Irrigation Department. Since they are unable to make their both ends meet with these low salaries, they try to tap other sources of income with a view to getting enough money with which they could support their families. They always endeavour to find out such people around them as could fall an easy prey to their illegal demands. So at the time of construction of 'mogas' they put the zamindars to great trouble and try to hamper the supply of water till they have greased their palms.

I feel that it is a mistake to think that these low-paid Government servants whose salaries do not exceed Rs. 30, can provide comforts of life to their children and look after them properly. Besides this, it is a matter of surprise that whereas the revenue patwari is provided with a residential house in the form of patwarkhana and in the absence of that is paid house rent in lieu of that in addition to his salary of Rs. 30 per mensem, the canal patwari whose salary starts from Rs. 30 per mensem is not provided with such facilities. During the last session I had put an Assembly question regarding the canal patwaris and the Government gave me this reply that the canal patwaris were getting adequate salaries. During this Session of the Assembly I inquired from the Government the difference between the salaries of the revenue and canal patwaris. I was informed that the salaries of both these officials started from Rs. 30 per mensem. I think if it is considerd necessary to provide a revenue patwari with a residential house there seems to be no reason why the canal patwari should be deprived of this facility. Then I have been supplied with a statement from the Government indicating that the overseers are being kept on temporary basis and for the last six or seven years they have not been confirmed. The Government has not stated

as to when they would be confirmed. They have spent the best portion of their life in temporary service. I remember that the Government of India appointed a Pay Commission which made a recommendation to the effect that no Government servant should be kept as a temporary hand for more than two years. I am also of the view that it is sheer injustice on the part of any Government to keep any Government servant on temporary basis for more than two years If the Government intends to dig out more canals then it should employ additional staff for this purpose rather than keeping on the present patwaris on temporary basis.

Further, the zamindars are experiencing great difficulty in getting the allotment chits. The way in which these allotment chits are distributed is very defective. Now-a-days the chits are being prepared by the Patwari who delivers these chits to the Lambardar after getting his signature. It depends upon the will of the Lambardar to give these chits to anybody he likes. As the Zamindars are quite illiterate they do not know much about these chits, and nobody cares to know what their difficulties are.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : On a point of Order, Madam. I suggest that there should be time limit as many hon. Members have to speak on the Demand, now before the House.

Deputy Speaker : If the House wishes to fix the time-limit, I will have no objection to it.

Hon. Members : There should be time limit of 15 minutes for each hon. Member.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Madam, I was submitting that the method of distribution of allotment chits is defective and causes a good deal of trouble to the zamindars. In fact the land revenue of each zamindar should be clearly specified and they should be informed in time that they have to pay so much land revenue and so much area of land has been allotted to them, so that they may be able to put in their objections, if any, in this behalf. Another difficulty that is experienced is in connection with the auction of gardens. If any garden is auctioned for Rs. 300 then the person making the highest bid is required to offer 300 mangoes in addition to the amount which he is required to pay. Similarly, if any garden is auctioned for Rs. 500 then the purchaser is required to give 500 mangoes in addition to this amount. This system is in force from the time when these lands

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were irrigated through the canals. This has become a regular custom now. Similarly there is another practice prevalent in the Courts regarding the sale of stamp paper. It is to the effect that the stamp vendor charges two rupees in addition to the price of a stamp paper costing Rs. 100. What I want to drive at is that the officials do not have the slightest hesitation in asking for these customary charges. They do not feel the least compunction for accepting these charges. In this connection I may point out that I meet contractors of gardens very often because there are so many residents of my village who are contractors of gardens. They tell me that at the time of auction they are required to deposit Rs. 500 in the treasury and to give 500 mangoes to the officer auctioning the contracts of gardens. Thus with regard to the distribution of fruit like mangoes etc. the share of every official in the Canal Department is fixed. I have mentioned these evils rampant in the administration so that Government may take effective steps to eradicate them. Now ours is a free country but the pity of it is that the Government does not realize its responsibilities. It behoves the Government to give its undivided attention to these matters and make endeavours to put a complete stop to these evils. I think, Government is not adopting those measures which it should, with a view to eliminating corruption from the administration.

The beldars and the labourers who are employed by this department do not enjoy any holiday even on important festivals. These people have to work even on those days when all the Government offices are closed. They are eligible for 15 days, leave during the year but this privilege is also enjoyed by them in some divisions and not in all. Similarly Besakhi and Dewali holidays are observed in Sirhind Canal Division but not in Upper Bari Doab. It is strange that different practices should be in vogue in the State under the present Government.

The most objectionable thing in this demand is that the sum of Rs. 30 000 has been provided to meet the charges on 'Special Pay of Officers'. Before this also, I raised an objection to the grant of special pay while discussing the supplementary demands for grants. I am of the view that it is fundamentally wrong to grant special pay to officers. When a high officer is already in receipt of his salary, then what is the need for granting him special pay? When he is already enjoying handsome salary there seems to be no reason that he should be paid an additional amount as special pay. On the other side we find that patwaris are getting meagre salaries and environed as they are, there is no other alternative for them but to resort to corrupt

practices in order to supplement their income. I would say that our Government is responsible for encouraging corruption amongst them. The Government grants special pay to highly placed officers but the low paid Government servants continue to get small salaries and on account of their inability to make both ends meet they resort to corrupt practices. I would, therefore, appeal to Government to put an end to this practice of granting special pay to officers. In fact we have inherited this practice from the British Government when every officer judged his prestige by the emoluments he received. But now in the changed circumstances when we have an ideal of service before us it does not behove our Government to maintain the prestige of its officers in the same old way. The popular Government is one which adheres strictly to the principles of democracy. I am of the view that this special pay should be given to the ill-paid Government servants. But what we see is that this special pay is given to the Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers who already enjoy fat salaries. The Government should stop this practice forthwith. If the Government had sanctioned the grant of special pay to the low paid staff of the Irrigation Department such as Pansal Nawis, Zilladars or Patwaris then we would have thought that it is paying due attention to the welfare of the poor class of people. These poor people have also to earn their livelihood. A poor patwari has also to support his family. If the Government does not give them adequate salary then there is no other course for them but to resort to corruption. I am opposed to the policy of the Government to give special pay to highly placed officers as it amounts to filling the pockets of such officers who are already enjoying fat salaries. These things could well be ignored during the British regime but the times are changed now. The Britishers always tried to keep high officers under their thumb by giving them allurement of special pay. But these things do not look proper in the changed circumstances. I think that continuance of this practice of granting special pay is a blot on the administration. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government to consider this matter and try to remove these defects.

Sardar Partap Singh: (Amritsar South, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Madam, I have stood up to oppose this demand for the Irrigation Department. The welfare of the plough man is closely linked with this department. As a matter of fact no other department wields greater influence in making or marring the prospects of prosperity of the Zamindars as this department does. I have listened to the speech of my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh and fully subscribe to his views that the salaries of the low paid staff in this

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department should be increased. The Government has not fixed any standard according to which the minimum pay of the subordinate staff should be fixed. We are still continuing in the old rut and adhering to the very system which we have inherited from the British rulers, Our philosophy that what has proved right in the past is sure to prove a success in the future, is manifestly wrong in the changed circumstances. The whole system in fact requires radical change as the grant of Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 by way of annual increment does not appear to me to be reasonable. We must remember that India of 1951 is not the India of 1947. Since the coming of independence those conditions for which we longed have not come about. When India has come unto her own we must not follow in the footsteps of Englishmen whose rule was of the worst type. This department can, to a very great extent, render useful service to the people who come in contact with it. But the glaring feature of this department is its top-heavy administration. The number of Chief Engineers has been increased and I do not like that the ratio of expenditure should be so high. I would not like that this department should drift in a senseless squandering of Government money. There should be a change in the outlook of this department which has been wholly coloured by a sense of interest of its own officers. Sometime back the Government took a decision to increase abiana rates by 50 per cent. It was nothing but a decision of despotic rule. When any decision about the increase in land revenue is to be taken it takes three or four years to make enquiry to see whether the conditions justify the enhancement of land revenue because under the rules land revenue cannot be increased beyond a certain ratio. But the Irrigation Department has increased the rate of abiana against the wishes of zamindars without making any enquiry whatsoever. Such an autocratic step is opposed to the very principles of democracy. It would have been better if the Government had set up an enquiry committee to examine the question of high cost of living and the increase in the prices of agricultural commodities. It should have also considered the increase in the agricultural cost of production. But the Government has taken this step haphazardly against the interests of common cultivator. The hon. Chief Minister has remarked that this department is a commercial department but it is also necessary that he should run this department on commercial lines. The Government should settle with us how much water a cultivator ordinarily requires for sowing the wheat crop till its harvest. The Government is in fact exploiting the ignorant zamindars and does not give as much water as he needs and is still charging increased rates of abiana from him. The Govern-

ment is quite indifferent to the welfare of zamindars and it is perhaps due to the fact that they have not launched any agitation against the Government.

To have imposed the enhanced rate of abiana on sixty or seventy lakhs of poor peasants, without caring to enquire about their actual income from land or whether they can make their both ends meet, even after sweating toil and labour, or not, just on the plea that the prices of agricultural products have risen. is the greatest act of injustice that the Government has done to its discredit. The argument of the hon. Chief Minister that the rate of abiana is still higher in other States utterly ignores the difference in the conditions prevailing there and those existing here. In States like U. P. the yield of sugar cane per acre is of the value of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,800 because the peasant gets plenty of supply of water. What is the condition here. If a peasant holding 1 bighas of land sows cane in two kanals of land only he will have to give the whole available water to that small strip of land before he can hope to have the crop ready. In the very nature of things he does not like to expend all the water on two Kanals of land. Being uneducated he does not understand how best to utilize the water that comes to his share. But even if he decides to utilise all the water on cane crop there is the risk of stoppage of water supply at the crucial time.

Then, Madam, if the Government really regarded this department as a commercial one, was it businesslike to have increased the abiana exparte by an executive order? Was it not its duty to call the representatives of its customers and decide the matter by negotiations and mutual settlement? Is it just and fair to run a commercial department by snatching the bread of the customers themselves and by forcing starvation upon them just to provide fat salaries for the bloated number of its officers? You will be surprised to know Madam, that in this truncated, vivisected, ruined Punjab the strength of establishment of various departments has increased over the pre-partition strength by twenty four thousand personnel and the burden of it all has fallen on the poor peasantry who once was the pride of the country but whose little remaining happiness is being mercilessly marred by the Government by depriving them of the fruit of their hard labour. There is no alternative left for them now but to organize themselves and agitate for agrarian reforms and raise their voice against the autocracy of this Department.

It is a pity, Madam, that all those arbitrary regulations which the foreign rulers had devised for their own convenience should be in force even now whe

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we profess to adopt the democratic way in every sphere of life. What can be more undemocratic than the way tavan is imposed on innocent villagers on the alleged charge of tampering with the distributaries. If any breach occurs, for one reason or the other, due to rains or the activity of the rats or somebody's mischief; the whole village is declared guilty and made to pay the tavan. A patwari's or a Ziladar's report is considered sufficient evidence to impose a fine of thousands of rupees on the innocent people living in a particular village who can have no recourse to the law courts against the injustice done to them. The Executive Engineer is competent to impose the tavan subject to confirmation by another officer. Madam, my submission is that such relics of autocracy and despotic rule ought to be done away with and democratic procedure comprising panchayats, committees of non-officials to help the Government in tracing the causes of breaches etc. be introduced. When we profess to have adopted a democratic way of life in every other respect why run this Department in the manner of Mughal kings ? Why leave these poor ignorant folk at the mercy of corrupt officials-people who even do not know how to write an application or where and when to send it ? The present method of imposing tavan is another name for exploiting the ignorance poverty and lack of organization among the peasant. Why should they be compelled to remain hungry after the hard toil of the day, why should they deny their children education and good diet, why should they undergo so many hardships just to provide salaries to the staff of this Department ? They are already sick of its highhandedness.

Now Madam, I would like to say a few words about the Bhakra Dam. So many rumours are afloat, so many scandals are being whispered, such sensational allegations are being made in connection with the construction of Nangal and Bhakara Dams that we are fed up with them though I wish they prove to be unfounded and this will make me very happy. I would urge the Government to appoint a committee consisting of the Members of this House to investigate into these allegations and sift the truth from falsehood. It is only then that we the Members of this House, the representatives of the people will be in a position to dispel the doubts and misgivings that have arisen in the minds of the people Some of the matters requiring investigation that have come to my notice are defective constructions of pillar No. 13, leakage in the inspection gallery, defects in the left flank wall etc. Being a layman I cannot say who is to blame in all these matters. Then there is the case of the collapse of the engin room. While errors in the construction of the works connected with the Dam may be explained away by holding the plea of inexperience how can mistakes in the work of construction of buildings be excused ? Then it is

said that even the smallest bridges had to be reconstructed a number of times. The driver of an excavator was made to cross a bridge built of wooden planks against his will. The result was that the bridge gave way and the excavator was badly damaged The driver who had foreseen this eventuality had at first refused to cross the bridge with the excavator but when he was accused of being a Communist, a saboteur, he had unwillingly obeyed the order with the result that he sustained grievous injuries and is even now lying in some hospital. On the other hand the officer responsible for giving him the order to cross the bridge has escaped scot free. The matter has been hushed up by replacing the damaged parts of the machine with the corresponding parts of a new excavator. It is also alleged that other machinery is also being spoilt through negligence. Keeping all these allegations in view I urge the Government to appoint a committee consisting of some Members of this House to go into these allegations. It is essential for setting at rest the doubts of the public that the true facts should come to light. If these allegations are baseless it is essential that they should be contradicted by some committee of non officials so that the enthusiasm of people which has flagged may be aroused again in the work of construction of these projects. People must be made to feel that the sacrifice they are making by paying abiana at enhanced rate is not going in vain and the money realized from them is being usefully spent. But for the bad impression created in the mind of the public about the money being squandered away due to the inefficiency and negligence of the staff, I am sure such a spirit of enthusiasm could be created in them that they would contribute to the financing of these projects by selling away the ornaments of their womenfolk and by taking loans from the rich and by combining their resources in a co-operative manner. But alas this Government and the way the work is being carried on the projects, in spire no confidence in the hearts of the people. Only if they could be aroused from this apathy , there would be no dearth of funds to help the Government to complete the construction.

Madam, the Government has not the will to do anything useful. Let us look at the treatment that is being meted out to the labourers who are working on the Dam. They have been given miserable mud huts to live in whereas the higher staff is living in palatial buildings. Even the right of forming a labour union is being denied to them and their demands are being laughed at and ridiculed by the high officers. No right thinking man will ever approve of these things. I submit that this Dam which has to transform the living conditions of our State, which has to bring plenty and prosperity

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to all of us and which will ever attract visitors from foreign countries, should not be built with the blood and bones of our labourers. Our labour class deserves a fair deal and nobody should grudge it.

Madam, it has been remarked that the engineers of our State are very efficient. I am really very proud of their efficiency. But in spite of all this, one thing remains and it is this that corruption is running riot on an unimaginable scale in their department. All overseers, S. D. O's and other officers have their definite shares in this loot which is being committed on a very vast scale. What is more, the contractors and other persons who help in tracing the corruption are struck off the lists and no action is taken against the offenders. We never expected that such things will prevail even after the achievement of independence for which we had to make unprecedented sacrifices. As a matter of fact, I have to hang my head in shame when I am confronted with this state of affairs and I dare say that we are far behind other States of the country in these matters. We do not do any thing for the good of the people and we only know how to burden them with increased Abiana and other taxation. Here I should not be misunderstood for my criticism of the Government. I certainly have praise for any useful things that may have been done by it. I was really pleased to find the useful work which was being done by the Research Institute. Some very intelligent young scientists are working there. But then only a small sum of Rs. 80,000 is being spent on that work and the workers have not been made permanent. This is not very encouraging. So I request the Government that it should with out any delay give up the old Moghul and the foreign traditions of exploita tion and cultivate a fellow feeling for the down-trodden and the mal-treated cultivator who is not in a position to carry the burden which was unjustly put on his shoulders by the foreign rulers. The poor peasants of Kangra, Rohtak, Hissar and Karnal are being crushed under the weight of heavy taxation which the foreigners imposed on them and which is still being continued without any rhyme or reason. And then these people would not grudge the payment of taxes if the money raised was to be spent for their benefit by way of establishing schools and hospitals etc., for them. Unfortunately, they are made to pay the high taxes without anything being given to them in return. This is most unjust. If it is argued that money is to be raised from the zamindars for the commercial departments which are run for their benefit, I say raise as much money as is necessary but kindly see that the zamindars concerned get proper returns for what is paid by them. In this connection I think this Government would do well to take a lesson from the administrations of countries like the U. S. A. which give all necessary facilities to the tax-payers. In spite of the fact that the poor peasants are far

from being satisfied with the Government and have many times represented that they should be relieved from the increase of Abiana, we have always been telling them not to complain frequently as the Government gets upset by such representations. But this does not mean that victimization of these poor people should be continued and nothing should be done to relieve them from their burden. I may tell the Government and the engineers that if regular steps are taken to put a stop to the bribery which prevails in this department on so large a scale the burden of the peasants can be reduced to a very appreciable extent. I think in such a circumstance even the increase in the Abiana may be rendered unnecessary. I am very particular about this increase in the Abiana and urge the Government that somehow it should be done away with.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing North-Eastern Towns, General, Urban) : Madam Deputy Speaker, at the outset I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your unanimous election as Deputy Speaker of this august Assembly. I could not congratulate you, Madam Deputy Speaker, earlier because it was against parlimentary procedure that 20 members of the House should get upon the floor of the House to congratulate on the election of the Deputy Speaker. This procedure is followed nowhere in any legislature of the world. Therefore, I held my own and kept quiet and I now take this opportunity to offer you my humble congratulations.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is acknowledged on all hands that the Irrigation Department is one of the most important departments in this State whose economy predominantly is agriculture. I was surprised to hear the remarks of my hon. Friend on my left, knowing my tribe as he does, and I ignore them as I do his other remarks which are uncalled for and which he usually makes on the floor of the House. Madam Deputy Speaker, it is not only that the Irrigation Department is a very important Department but I submit that irrigation is a popular pastime in this State. Apart from the fact that the members of this House irrigate the Ministry, apart from the fact that the Ministry irrigates the members, apart from the fact that the irrigation Department irrigates the State, the over-all picture is that Irrigation Departmeut irrigates itself. Madam, Deputy Speaker, this was the gist of the speeches delivered by some of the hon. Members. There has been carping criticism of this Department from all sides of the House. This Department admittedly is the hot-bed of intrigues and one of the worst departments of the Punjab Government. Therefore, it is high time that something ought to be

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Low to set matters right done Unfortunately, Madam, there was great confusion in all the speeches that have been delivered on this subject oron certain allied subjects during the discussion of the Department and during the discussion of the Budget. Some members were of the opinion that there was something wrong with the Department. Others paid tributes to some of the heads of the departments and criticised and condemned the Ministry itself. Nobody knew as to where the fault lay. Nobody even knew what the evil was. Nobody knew what the nature of the evil was. Still there was one thing common which ran through all the speeches and that is that there is something rotten in the State of Denmark. Now, Sir, my personal opinion is............

Deputy Speaker: You must say 'Madam' now.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt; I beg to exercise my knowledge of parliamentary procedure and I am entitled to address you as Chairman. It is always the procedure. Now I address the Chair. It may be a male or a female or a neuter gender. The Chair adorns you and you adorn the Chair. Now Madam, my personal opinion is that there was a unanimity of view amongst those Members who spoke on the floor of the House on this department that the department was not working satisfactorily, that there were all kinds of evils in the department. Certain other Members were also of the view that the evil did not lay with the department but that the chief cause of the trouble was the Chief Minister himself or the Ministers who were previously incharge of the department who did not know anything about the department, and who were not conversant with the working that was going on in the department. I am taking things impersonally. Sir, or if you prefer. 'Madam' most of the women to-day are becoming masculine in this world-one thing is certain that there is unanimity that there is something rotten in the State of Denmark, both in the department and in the Ministry itself. But I cannot understand why Members stand up in this House and raise their voice against the Control Board set up in consultation with the Pepsu Government, Punjab Government and the Government of India. I agree with all those Members who have pointed out the evils in the department or the failings of the Ministry. But what is the remedy? We have tried Ministries before. There were different groups although they belonged to the same party. Now those gentlemen who were in the opposition today have had their day. They tried their own experiments with this very department and they failed and the same thing is true today, that the present ministry has failed in this respect and there was one sloution only. After all you cannot say that the Central Government should be treated as a foreigner in the sense

in which that word is generally used. It is our own Government. We have so many subjects which are concurrent. We have not merely Punjabi patriotism but we have Indian patriotism also. Therefore, I feel that we would support the Board which has been set up by the Government of India. That is one solution which might change the situation and create better conditions. But, Sir, that Central Board is not merely a Board which is dominated by the Centre. We have got our own representatives on that Board. The Pepsu has got its own representatives on that Board. And there are experts from the Finance Department of the Government of India on that Board. Therefore Sir, taking things in a very cool manner and in a calculated manner, I come to the conclusion that it was an erroneous conception of patriotism that led certain members of the House to raise their voice against the establishment of that Central Board.

Madam, the other matter which I would like to refer to, relates to the remarks made by my dear friend, Sardar Partap Singh, during the course of his speech, which were unfortunately, to put it mildly, unfortunate. Being conscious of my duty as his friend, I would say that it would have been better if he had avoided making any reference to the subject of water rate, popularly known as abiana. I do not propose to say anything on the controversy whether water rate should be or should not be increased; whether it is in consonance with the present day conditions or not in view of the fact that it was fixed at a time when the prices were different from those obtaining today and whether it is causing any hardship to the poor peasants or not. I have no mind at this stage to express my personal views on the merits or demerits of that question. I only want to remind the House that it was in the last session of the Assembly, when this controversy was raging both in and outside the House, that a compromise was arrived at and a Committee was constituted to go into the question. It was said that the previous Resources and Retrenchment Committee did not represent all sections of the House and the hon. Chief Minister in consultation with the representatives of the various sections of the House set up a committee which included my hon. Friend, Sardar Partap Singh. That Committee was asked to go into the question of finding out whether it was possible to tap other sources of revenue and if so whether we could do away with the water rate. If that Committee comes to the conclusion, after going deep into the whole problem, that under the present state of finances it is not possible to find out other alternative sources of revenue and that we are at the end of our resources, then I submit that it becomes the duty of the House to call upon the people of the State to make sacrifices for the common good of the State. It is very easy, Madam, to play a dem-

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suggestions, like a statesman, for finding out money for the betterment of the State. My grievance, therefore, against the critics, is justified especially when the whole question is yet in a state of consideration and the Committee has not yet arrived at any conclusion. To make any observation or criticise the Government in regard to a matter which is yet under the serious consideration of the Government is not justifiable.

Deputy Speaker : I would request the hon. Member to be as brief as possible.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Madam, I have been unavoidably absent from the House and would, therefore, request you to give me more time.

Deputy Speaker : I give the hon. Member 10 minutes more.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Thank you . The Irrig tion Department has, on the one hand, received encomiums from some hon. Members of the House, while on the other, it has been a target of severe criticism from certain other members . One hon. Member got up and said that there is 90% corruption in the department and another Member gave vent to his feelings by saying that the Ministry is damnable and condemnable. The fact is that nobody knows where he stands, I had to deal with this department in a way when I was the Finance Minister...............

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. May I know if the hon. Member has got the liberty to find fault with all and sundry. He has got no right to cast aspersions on everybody. Every hon. Member said what he felt.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I have got every right to reply to the criticism that has been levelled by the hon. Members against this department. It is most presumptuous on the part of the hon. Member..................

Deputy Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to proceed with his speech.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I was saying, Madam, that the manner in which praises have been showered and criticims levelled against certain members of departments by hon. Members of the House is not proper. An

hon. Member got up and attacked a departmental Head and then defended certain other members of the department which is something very rotten and thus undesirable conventions are being set up on the floor of the House. We should be above these things. While criticising we should be above personal considerations and only make healthy and constructive criticism in the discharge of our duties which we owe to the people and to the State. So far as this department is concerned, it is not only the previous Minister that has been a failure but the Chief Minister also has been the biggest failure in dealing with it.

The question should be considered on its merits. We should cultivate the habit and have mental training to consider all questions on their merits impersonally. Madam, the question is that there is a lot of corruption in this department. The evil is too strong for the present Government and too strong for the department itself. I believe, Madam, that the corruption is so open and the persons involved in it are so high and influential that it is impossible for the Government to root out corruption from the department. Let us face the facts.

Secondly, it is impossible on the part of the Chief Minister and the present Government to take any action against those high personages in the department who come in daily contact with them and without whom they are not in a position to carry on the administration. The hon. Chief Minister or the Minister-in-charge is surrounded by these gentlemen and is guided by these people and, therefore the Chief Minister is not in a position to put an end to the corruption practised by them.

Thirdly, there is, as Sardar Partap Singh pointed out and rightly pointed out, communalism in the department. The Chief Minister, owing to the very nature of the circumstances in which he finds himself today, does not find it easy to curb communal spirit that is going on in the Department.

The time at my disposal is very short and I cannot go into the details of various matters and am therefore only making a reference to them but would request the hon. Chief Minister to give a reply to the points raised by me when he gets up to answer the criticism. I want to know to what use is that machinery being put which was recently imported from America and for which a Head of the department was sent abroad? That machinery was intended for the Bhakra Dam.

Chief Minister: No machinery has been imported by us direct and no officer was sent abroad to buy machinery for us.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: Madam, I am referring to a matter which is more serious than the hon. Chief Minister imagines it to be. Therefore, I would like him to go into this matter before replying. I have been given only a limited time to speak and cannot expatiate on this point.

I also want to know, what is the future policy ? Is the Government going to build the dam first, is priority going to be given to the building of the dam or to the raising of the new canals in the State ? This is a question the hon. Members of this House should feel, which is much more important than some of the other issues which have been discussed during the last two days on the floor of the House. This question, I understand , is under the consideration of the Government, whether priority should be given to the dam itself or priority should be given to the canals. There is a view today that the canals are of more immediate importance than the dam itself. I hope the Government will go into the question more thoroughly and in the interest of the food situation take an independent and unbiased decision—a decision which is not in any way influenced by those very persons who are going to be affected by it.

Madam, I thank you very much for the time given to me for discussing the Irrigation Department to day . In the end, I only want to point out to the hon. Chief Minister that he should not be taken away, as the Prime Minister of India had very recently the consolation from the tribute paid to the work being carried on on the Bhakra Dam, by the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. When experts come from abroad and pay flying visits to the sites of our works they naturally are not expected to go into the working of the whole thing. They just see that something is being built up and in the course of a few years time would develop . They are not conversant with the corruption they are not conversant with the evils existing in the working of the department. They are not conversant even with the promises held out by the Government regarding the time in which a certain work would finish. The foreign visitors cannot say anything but praise a certain work being done by the Government but we should not have consolation in such praises. If the hon. Chief Minister is going to do the work as he is doing today, I am not optimistic about the future of the Bhakra Dam and the Irrigation Department.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (Hindi): Madam, on account of the personal experience which I have regarding the Department of Irrigation, I know its weaknesses as well as its good points. I wish

to place both the sides of the picture before the hon. Members of this House. I know that the engineers of this department are very able and intelligent. Nowhere can we find such capable persons. After partition we have seen that in spite of floods and other natural calamities they did their best to save the crops and as a matter of fact they succeeded to a large extent in supplying water whenever necessary. Even in the Government of India most of the efficient engineers are supplied by Punjab. Other States of India always desire to have Punjab engineers. Even in the U.N O. there is a demand for engineers from this State. So for as the question of ability is concerned, I am confident that throughout the world it is difficult to find engineers superior to those of our State (cheers).

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : The hon. Member is simply making an exaggeration.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: I am not exaggerating. What I wish to point out is that in respect of ability and honesty the officers at the top in the Irrigation Department of Punjab are a match for others. I believe that ninety-nine per cent of such officers are honest.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: I question it.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: The hon. Member may question it. He is ignorant about these matters.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : He is an advocate for imposters.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I request the hon. Deputy Speaker to control this little chap.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt. I protest against the words of this old hag. He is the most irresponsible speaker in this House. He interrupts every Member every day. I have interrupted him only today.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : He does not know anything about irrigation and the Irrigation Department, still he has said so many things against the officers of the department.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Members gave an assurance only a short while ago and I remind them of that. I request them to follow rules

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and behave like responsible Members of a Legislature. If any hon. Member wants to say something he should first rise in his seat, take my permission and then speak.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : May I draw your attention to the fact that as hon. Members of the House are aware, the hon. Member on my right is a chronic interrupter in the House. I have interrupted him only today and once, why should he mind.

Deputy Speaker : I again request the hon. Members to maintain the dignity of the House?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: Irrigation Department is the most corrupt department in the Punjab; high persons are involved in this corruption and still he has the cheek to defend the department and say that 90% officers are honest in this department.

Deputy Speaker : I request the hon. Member Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt not to be excited on the very first day of his coming to the House. I would request Chaudhri Lahri Singh to confine himself to the motion and not to roam about as usual.

Minister for Public Works : A very good certificate.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I submit that it is the right of every member to criticise the department. On my personal experience I can say that from the Chief Engineer down to S. D. O's the officers are honest......

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I question it.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : He may question it but I speak from personal experience that from the Chief Engineer down to S. D. O's the officers are honest but the staff lower than the S. D. O's is dishonest and they bring a bad name to the department.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: I question it again. He is falling on the poor people and leaving out the big fish.

Deputy Speaker : I request Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt not to interrupt.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : This is the biggest scandal. These big officers of this department have misappropriated lakhs of rupees. Every hon. Member of the House has said such things but he is saying something different.

Deputy Speaker : Please let him proceed with his speech,

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : He gave way.

Deputy Speaker : I again request the hon. Members not to address each other. If they want to test me I can assure them that even one hundred Chaudhries will not be able to defeat me.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Madam, the hon. Member interrupts me too often. Anyhow, what I was saying is that the big officers live in kothis and bungalows where Englishmen lived. Consequently they keep no contact with the poor people in the villages and the lower officers are free to exploit the position. I know that the officers at the top seldom meet the poor kisans. They only contact them through ziladars. As a result of this not in one village but in nearly all of them the patwaris and the ziladars are exploiting the names of the officers and taking bribes. The poor kisans are being looted by such officials as patwaris, ziladars and overseers.

The overseers are like a pest to the zamindars. They are very corrupt and unless their palms are greased, they would harass the latter by decreasing their water supply in the water courses. The result is that they tarnish the fair name of the Government and bring discredit to the Executive and the Chief Engineers. During my Ministership, when I toured my ilaqa, I found that 70 per cent water outlets (mogas) were not working satisfactorily because of the collection of silt or the shortening of the discharge hole of the outlets. As a result of this the zamindars were in great distress. They had represented their difficulties to the Executive Engineer, but no heed had been paid to their request. Their applications for putting the outlets in proper working order, would rot for months in the office of the Executive Engineer and no action is taken on them. I would urge upon the Government to stop this inefficiency in the Irrigation Department regarding disposal of urgent papers relating to the water supply to the zamindars. People at large are under the impression that it is the big officers who are corrupt, but I am of the opinion that it is the smaller official who is the root cause of this evil of corruption. I would suggest that the departmental heads i. e, the Chief Engineer, the Executive Engineer and the Sub Divisional Officers etc should prepare their tour programmes in such a manner that the same get sufficient publicity in the areas of their tours. Then they should make it a point to come into contact with the zamindars, who after seeing their programmes, would naturally like to meet them to ventilate their grievances. If my suggestion is acted upon, I am sure, this direct contact of the officers with the zamindars, will not only result in the removal of the difficulties of the latter but will also go a long way in curbing the evil of corruption.

Then there is another difficulty experienced by the zamindars. It is in respect to the files of their cases pending in the Irrigation Department for

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disposal. I am constrained to remark that the machinery of the Department is so slow that it takes months and months for the disposal of a case. If a clerk wants to play the mischief, and he generally does so, in case illegal gratification is not offered to him by the zamindar concerned, he would point out a little unnecessary mistake, with the result that the file would be set on a tortuous journey. It would lie for a considerable period in different racks of different officers. Even if it is an urgent case, it is generally decided after the urgency is over. (*Laughter*). If it had been Hitler's regime, I wonder what punishment would have been inflicted on the Superintending Engineer of a Circle for making such criminal delays in the disposal of files. In this connection I would cite a case in which Irrigation Department is responsible for delaying a case regarding putting a watercourse in proper working order. This case has been pending before it since 1949. An area of no less than 11000 acres in Rohtak district is lying unirrigated because the Department has failed to set right the watercourse which commands this area. Now, Sir, just imagine the loss in food grains that has been caused to the zamindars as a result of this big area remaining fallow for want of proper water supply which could not be made available because the Department has remained inertia-stricken and has not decided the case of that watercourse. I would request the Government to see that the matter is decided soon by the Irrigation Department and the zamindars are saved from further loss of food grains, particularly at a time when the Government itself is making every endeavour to bring every inch of land under cultivation.

Well, Sir, I forgot to make a mention of one ziladar who accepted 500 rupees as illegal gratification. I brought this fact to the notice of the authorities but so far no action has been taken against him. I think such an official is a standing disgrace to the Department and he should be severely dealt with. In this connection I may also point out that the establishment in the offices of the Irrigation Department is corrupt. The Superintendents of the offices and other clerks are suffering from this evil. Unless the zamindars quietly send tins of ghee to the houses of these officials, they cannot expect speedy movement of the files or the disposal of their cases. I think this state of affairs must come to a stop. It is so sickening. Since the time at my disposal is very short, I would just draw the attention of the hon. Chief Minister and then finish my speech. I would request him that he should see that the case of supply of water to irrigate 11000 acres of land is decided soon because it is hanging fire for a year and a half. Secondly, the Canal Officers should be instructed to come to the aid of the zamindars when the rajbahas do not work propery. It so happens that due to silt the water at the tail of the rajbaha does not reach the lands situated

at the end. When the zamindars approach the canal authorities, to set things right, the latter are very unsympathetic. Besides, this I would suggest that the Canal Act should be so amended as to enable the Government to reconstruct rajbahas, which are ordinarily considered to be the property of the zamindars, at its own cost. This is the crying need of the hour. I may assure the Government that if it adopts measure to set the water courses right at is own cost, and make water freely available to the zamindars for irrigation purposes, the produce of the lands, so irrigated, would certainly go up twofold. I submit that a very large area of land is not being brought under cultivation simply because the water courses do not discharge enough water and the lands remain unirrigated. I would request the Government to move early in this matter and make some enactment facilitating the reconstruction of watercourses. It is a pity that Government has not been able to devote its attention to this matter and has failed to bring in any legislation in this connection. The action on this matter is long over due. I may submit that any apathy on the part of the Government in this matter would act as a boomrang on it. General elections are going to be held in November and it is no wonder, if this Government finds itself obliterated. I would, therefore, again request the Chief Engineer as also the hon. Chief Minister to lose no time in helping the zamindars in the matter of reconstruction of rajbahas.

The third point to which I want to draw the pointed attention of the hon. Chief Minister is this. It is happy coincidence that both the Finance and the Irrigation Departments fall into his portfolios. I wish to submit that the grow more food campaign cannot be a success, because the high officials of the Irrigation Department, like the Executive Engineers, the Superintending Engineers, do not tour the rural areas with a view to seeing whether the zamindars engaged in grow more food scheme are properly getting irrigation facilities, or whether the work is being properly carried on. I find that since these officers cannot draw travelling allowance for this purpose, they do not pay attention to this matter. I would suggest that T. A. rules regarding this matter should be relaxed and these high officers should be permitted to undertake tours for the success of the grow more food campaign.

Then I would like to make a reference to the Bhakra Dam Project. I find that under this scheme certain pockets in the Rohtak District and the Gurgaon Distict will not be receiving irrigation facilities. It is a pity that these ilaqas have been deprived of water supplies. The hopes of the zamindars of these particular areas have been dashed. I think this is a stepmotherly treatment which is being meted out to them. I would, therefore, request the hon. Chief Minister to see that these areas also obtained irrigation facilities under the Bhakra Scheme. I may make it clear that if no water is made available to the zamindars of Gurgaon and certain parts of Rohtak, the Governments both here and at the Centre, may come to grief.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: On apoint of personal explanation, I think an explanation is called for after what happened here a short while ago. I am sorry for the interruption that I had to make and for that I have to plead some extenuating circumstances and that is, there was no small provocation when the hon. Member made three ersonal attacks against me and after that he should not have any grievance if I had to interrupt him. I have been a Member of this House since 1936 and have never, or perhaps very rarely, interrupted any Member of the House who was speaking. I appeal to you to put an end to this flippant, frivolous tom-foolery and buffoonery.

Thakur Dalip Singh: (Kangra South, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) Madam through you I would like to draw the attention of the Irrigation Department in general and the hon. Chief Minister in particular to that District where water, which is already available in abundance, can be used for irrigation purposes. (Interruptions).

Deputy Speaker: I would request the hon. Members to hear the hon. Member attentively and thus not waste any time of the House. (Noise). Order, Order. No interruptions please.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: Madam, I must meet the frivolousness of my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh. He thinks he can say anything he likes.

Thakur Dalip Singh: Madam, y u have yourself been to Kangra and Kulu and I think you will subscribe to my view that in the District of Kangra water is available in abundance and that there are quite a large number of Kuhls flowing through the valley. You will also agree with me that we have two most beautiful valleys i. e.; Kulu valley and the Kangra valley. But it is a matter of deep regret that our Government has not taken any advantage of both the water and the valleys. There is no doubt that a large number of Kuhls are to be found in these valleys but our Government has not spent any amount so far on the construction of new Kuhls and the repairs of the old ones. What I wish to point out is this that the zamindars have themselves constructed these Kuhls. In spite of the fact that zamindars make all the arrangements for watering their lands themselves, they are required to pay an additional amount of 40% of the land revenue in the form of irrigation charges.

Further, last year our Government created two sub-divisions of Kulu and Kangra in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign. Now the

Kulu sub-division has been closed and the whole work in connection with the scheme has been entrusted to the Kangra sub-division. In this connection I should request the Government to amalgamate the two sub-divisions which have been created temporarily in connection with the Grow More Food Scheme, with the Irrigation Department. If these two sub-divisions are managed by the Irrigation Department I am sure, it will go a long way in improving the condition of the people of this District.

Further, I quite remember about 4 or 5 days ago the hon. Chief Minister remarked in reply to a question regarding the frequent transfers of S. D. Os. of Kangra, that such steps were taken by the Government in view of their reversions and promotions. While replying to a supplementary on the same question it was also stated by him that these officers were transferred as they were to be reverted to their substantive posts. I would request the Government not to depute such officers to our District who are soon likely to be reverted to their substantive posts. As a matter of fact it would be better if such officers, who cannot work efficiently, are not deputed to this District at all. Moreover it has been experienced that the deputation of such officers who are transferred immediately after resuming their duties, has resulted in a loss to the State Exchequer.

Madam, I am of the opinion that there is much scope for irrigation in the district of Kangra. Before the advent of the Britishers more area of land was receiving water-supply than at present. During the British regime the District was ignored simply because the Britishers were under the impression that in the event of improving the condition of the people of this District it would not be possible for them to recruit people for the Army. They thought that in the absence of any facilities to people for ameliorating their lot, they would continue recruiting people in the Army. It seems that our Government is also under the same impression that recruits would not be forthcoming from this District in case any irrigation facilities are afforded to them for improving their condition.

I would request the Government to pay its attention to the Nurpur canal in Kulu District, which if properly looked after can irrigate thousands of acres of land.

There is one thing more towards which I would like to draw the attention of the Government and that is that the officers of the Kangra sub-division who have already to do a lot, cannot attend to the work in connection with the Grow More Food Campaingn in the Kulu Sub-Division. Moreover we cannot afford to pay huge amounts of T. A. to the officers who are

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required to tour the areas of both the sub-divisions. I would therefore request the Government that there should be separate sub-divisions for Kulu and Kangra.

Further, our Government had formulated a scheme of lift irrigation for our District. I am of the opinion that there is much scope for lift-irrigation in our District. Government had under its consideration the construction of high dams but nothing is known about this scheme so far. It goes without saying that in the district of Kangra the areas of land are such that with minimum expenditure, new water channels can be constructed. For instance the construction of channels at Sukhahar and Sidhatahar can be instrumental in irrigating thousands of acres of land. I would therefore request the Govern ment to pay its pointed attention towards the construction of these water channels. As a matter of fact our Government had formulated a scheme about the construction of these channels. In fact the survey of these areas has also been made by it, but nothing is heard about it so far. The area of land by the side of River Bias, which is 12 miles in length and 4 miles in breadth, can be brought under cultivation if adequate steps are taken by the Government. If this is done. I am sure it would be possible to make up the deficiency of food grains and our food problem would be solved to a great extent. Here I would like to invite the attention of the Government to the remarks of the Finance Department appearing on page 688 of the New Expenditure. It is stated therein:—

> There is no canal worth the name in Kangra. There are, however, a large number of kuhls in which water flows throughout the year. The village people construct small channels known as kuhls and take water to their fields. The kuhls are maintained either by the Panchayats or the people themselves. This arrangement has not proved satisfactory and during the rainy season quite a large number of kuhls are damaged and people often find it much beyond their means to repair them. The heads of the branch kuhls are also defective, with the result that distribution of water suffers. It is therefore necessary to improve the off takes and head reaches of the kuhls. The work can only be done by the Government. Many parts of the valley are not receiving irrigation whatsoever and they can be provided with irrigation if the system is scientifically worked. There is a great scope for the improvement of kuhls. The improved system of irrigation will result in more revenue and greater production of foodgrains.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Madam. Perhaps the hon. Member might be reminded that he is not supposed to take note of any body present in the galleries. Therefore, he cannot address even through you any officer of any department sitting in the official box. That can be left for a private meeting.

Thakur Dalip Singh: I would appeal to the hon. Chief Minister to pay more attention to this department and not to ignore our District.

Shri Amarnath Vidyalankar (Non-Uni on Labour) (*Hindi*) : Madam, First of all I have to complain for not having been given an opportunity earlier to speak although I rose up several times in my seat to catch the eye of the hon Speaker. I had to say much about the Budget which is most disappointing but I am sorry to say that I was not given any time on the day of general discussion of the Budget. I am afraid that I will not have much time even to day as I am bound by the time-limit which has just now been imposed by you. I had to say something about the increase in abiana rates but I regret that, I will not be able to do so on account of the limited time at my disposal. I would, therefore, confine myself in making a few observations with regard to Bhakra Project. In this connection I have to make a serious complaint to Government as a labour representative that the Government does not accord better treatment to the labour employed on the works of Bhakra Project. The treatment meted out to them is decidedly worse than they can expect from any private employer About a year ago the Government had made three promises to the labour employed in Nangal Bhakra projects. Firstly that their Union which is a duly registered onewill be recognised. The hon. Chief Minister had admitted that the Government had taken adecision about one year ago but the Union has not been recognised in spite of repeated representations made in this behalf. The second promise which the Government made was that the work charge labour will not be charged any rent for the houses occupied by them in that colony. The Government has not fulfilled this promise as well. The rent is being charged from them as usual. The Government's plea is that they have no money to give them the free accommodation. But you would feel surprised at this argument when you will know that the orders have been very recently passed to provide rent free houses to the other staff. I regret to say that no action has been taken to remit the payment of rent to the work charge labour. Sometime back I gave a notice of a question to elicit the information but that question was postponed and hence no reply was given by the Government. The labourers have been relying on the Government's promise but to their great disappointment this has remained unfulfilled. The socialists and communists are exploiting them and are making fun of them by saying that the orders of the Government are honoured more in their violation than in their observance. Thirdly, the Government had held out a promise that the workers will be given leave in accordance

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar]
with the Factories Act. I am not in a position to go into the details of the matter on account of very limited time at my disposal. Whenever an enquiry is made from the hon. Chief Minister, it is said that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. Labour is cotinually employed by the Irrigation and Public Works Departments but they do not enjoy any privilege in the matter of grant of leave under the Factories Act. The Factories Inspectors do not take any notice of such irregularities and being Government servants dare not institute any case against these Government departments. If such conditions exist in the Government departments, then how can the working classes look for better treatment under the private labour-employers. Even water facilities have not been provided so at Kasari Camp the Government appears to have been indifferent to the hardships that these workers have to put up with. Whenever Government is approached for providing such facilities to these poor people it takes shelter behind the oft-quoted plea that necessary arrangments are being made. I do not know how long it will take for the Government to administer to the primary needs of the workers. Besides, these workers have been given quarters which have corrugated tin sheets on their roofs. These sheets get exteremely hot during summer and cause immense trouble to them. If looked at from this point of view this department is the worst department because it is not fully alive to the needs of the large body of workers and does not apply its mind to these problems. The Government should look to the human interests and try to alleviate their difficulties by attending to their problems which require the earliest attention. In the absence of ordinary facilities and fair treatment great dissatisfaction prevails among them and it has become well nigh impossible for us to control the large body of disgruntled people. It is strange to say that the big officers of the Government are getting fat salaries wher as these poor workers should be entirely ignored and neglected. They are half-fed dissatisfied men struggling pathetically to keep their body and soul together. If such deplorable state of affairs continues to exist it will be no wonder that labour may be attracted towards communism. If we compare the expenditure of the Irrigation department with its gross revenues, we will find that it was 42 per cent of its revenues and now it has increased to 49.8 per cent this year. The hon. Chief Minister once remarked that it is a commercial department and had based his reasoning on this fact to justify the increase in the rates of abiana. But now we see that the expenditure of this department has increased from 42 per cent to 49.8 per cent which shows that this department is not being run on commercial lines.

Besides this, a complaint has been made about the work on the Nangal Dam. I may admit that the work is being carried efficiently but I am not

a technician, I will only narrate two instances to show what that efficiency means in this case. Instances are not lacking of the serious dereliction of duty by the officers incharge of building operations. Madam, a bridge has been constructed at Nangal Dam with the material which is not in accordance with the formula for the mixing up of various substances in cement as suggested by the Research Officers of the Irrigation Department. They had suggested that cement and sand should be mixed in a certain specified proportion which would ensure the life of the bridge for one hundred years. But the Irrigation Department acted contrary to that formula and did not use the same quantity of cement as suggested by the Research Officers because thousands of maund of cement was alleged to have been stolen in Bhakra Dam. It is said that with the present material which has been used for the construction of that bridge its life has been reduced by 50 years. I would request the hon. Chief Minister to make an enquiry into this matter and take to task such officers who have been responsible for this gross neglect of duty. Besides, the concrete which is being used in the construction of tunnel is of inferior type. According to the expert advice one square foot of the tunnel should be able to bear a load of 3,000 lbs. The right side of the tunnel has been constructed in the right manner but the left side is defective because it would be able to bear a load of 1,000 lbs, instead of 3000 lbs. In view of the defect pointed out above if the tunnel gives way it will be an immeasurable loss to the Government. I know of so many such instances but I cannot bring it to the notice of the Government for want of time. It is very important that the Government should look into these matters.

Furthermore, the Government intends to charge money from zamindars in lieu of water that would be made available to them from Bhakra and Nangal Projects. I have no objection if money is realised but the Government should at least make no discrimination between the unearned income from the agricultural land and urban sites because in the latter case also people are deriving unearned profits in view of several amenities that have been provided by the Government in the towns.

My hon. Friend Sardar Partap Singh has criticized so vehemently the enhancement in the rate of abiana. I would not join in this protest if this increase in the rate of abiana were to affect only the big land-holders. To our old complaint that it is unfair to levy land revenue on all cultivators on a uniform scale has now been added another. While we wanted land revenue to be levied on the principles of income tax a demand which the Government is not prepared to concede, another injustice has been done to the small holders by increasing the rate of Abiana on the assumpt on that

[Shri Amar Nath Vidya Lankar]

they are earning a lot and that the Government to share their bloated income Madam, my submission is that it is an utterly false assumption. The margin available to the small holders is now barely more than what they need for their subsistence. To make this point clear I would like to quote from the report of the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee of the Government of India (Ministry of Finance) :—

That cost of production and cultivation have since 1945 caught up with the agricultural prices, thereby reducing the margin available to the agriculturist and that of late considerable financial stringency is being experienced in the rural areas and that as against the phenomenon of surplus funds which they witnessed till recently, the co-operative institutions are now faced with large demands for funds which they are unable to provide.

Again the Committee observes :—

It is however pointed out that the major part of the benefit indicated by the reduction of debt was confined to the larger and medium land-holders, while the position of small-holders remained practically the same and that of the tenants and labourers actually worsened.

It is clear from these observations that prosperity has not come to the small holders because the cost of production has caught up with the agricultural prices. So it was manifestly wrong to have increased on a uniform sale the rate of abiana the manner of levying of which is of a regressive type i. e. its incidence grows less as the income increases.

With these words I urge the Government to try to remove the grievances of the people that I have voiced. The time being short I cannot dwell on other points that I want to make

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar Sikh, women) (*Punjabi*): Madam, although the time at my disposal is very short yet I cannot remain without referring to the much-debated question of the enhancement of the rate of abiana. The Government had assured that after sometime it would again be brought down but I regret to point out that no action has been taken in this direction so far. Among the producers of the country are the miners, the industrial workers and the cultivators, those of the third category are by for the most important and numerous, constituting 80 per cent of the population. Among these the overwhelming majority is of those who are small holders. The big land lords are in a small minority. This increase in the rate of abiana is a great injustice bordering on cruelty towards the small holders of land. When income tax is charged on incomes above Rs. 300 per mensem from persons following all other professions why should the poor peasant whose average income is not more than Rs. 20 per month be made to pay such exorbitant water rates ? According

to Babu Bachan Singh even the highest officers are not satisfied wtih their salaries and consider them inadequate. Sardar Sajjan Singh has voiced the grievances of the low paid employees saying that with the meagre salary that they get they cannot afford to give education to their children. I admit that the grievances of subordinate employees are genuine but may I ask if anybody has ever thought as to how these poor peasants whose average return is not more than twenty rupees per mensem are able to make both ends meet. Is it not our duty to sympathise with them and to see that bread is not snatched from their hungry mouths? How can these poor people afford to pay so many taxes, land revenue, water rate, tavan and, betterment fee? Not dilating on this matter any more, I urge the Government to reconsider it and again revise the rates in such a manner that the small holders do not come within the ambit of this measure. Abiana should be charged at enhanced rates from those only who have the capacity to pay it.

Secondly, I want to emphasise the necessity of revising the regulations governing the imposition of a tavan for breaches in the canals and their distributaries. It is manifestly unjust to impose this tavan on the poor peasants without making an earnest effort to ascertain the real cause of the breach. More often than not the cause of the alleged cut are the rats making holes in the adjoining land or the cattle crossing a distributary or the heavy rains. When the attention of the officials of the department is drawn to an impending breach no action is taken in the matter and when it actually occurs the whole village is held responsible for it and made to pay the tavan. Why is not the repair work undertaken immediately after the matter is brought to the notice of a beldar. Then the poor ignorant victims of the high handedness of this department are not given any opportunity to appeal to a court against the imposition of the tavan. However much they cry that they are innocent, no one cares a hang for them. No notice is issued to them to represent their case by a certain date and the time allowed for this purpose passes off without their being aware of it and after that no appeal is entertained. Thus Madam, the very ignorance of these people is being exploited since they are not even permitted to engage a lawyer to defend themselves. I would request the Government to have every case of alleged cut investigated by a committee of non-officials and not to impose 'tavan' except in consulation with it and also to make provision in the rules for issuing a notice in every case.

There is another important matter Madam, to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. When it is devoting so much time and

[Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur]
attention te the Grow More Food Campaign with a view to solving the problem of food shortage, I fail to understand why it is giving so much canal water to West Punjab instead of making the half yearly distributaries in my district of a perennial nature and providing water for the irrigation of waste lands. In this connection, I also want the Government to issue instructions to the canal officers to be sympathetic towards the representation of the cultivators with regard to the supply of water on particular occasions. I am glad to say that crops in Tehsil Ajnala have been saved thanks to the attention paid by the authorities to the request of the pleasants. If water supply had not been made available at the opportune time crops would have been damaged due to drought. Such occasions often arise when if the canal authorities are unsympathetic there is a great danger of crops being ruined for want of water.

In the end I would like to point out that the scheme relating to the canal for the Ramdas Ilqa like other road schemes should not be allowed to remain only on paper. It should be put through at once so that supply of water can be given to the cultivators who badly need it.

Sant Narindar Singh (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Montgomery (East-Sikh-Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, it is well known that owing to shortage of food in the country we have started the Grow More Food Campaign. But in this connection I wish to point out that at some places some officers are trying to show false figures to prove that more food is actually being grown in the State. I may illustrate myself. It will be recalled that during the last summer we had unprecedented rains and floods in our State . Naturally places like Jalalabad, Fazilka and Mir Khas which had never been supplied with canal water developed moisture in the soil. The result was that the Executive Engineer of this Ilaqa who is known for so many excesses , in order to show exaggerated grow more food figures, increased the land-revenue of these places owing to moisture which had been developed on account of the rains. This was very unjust on his part. He went to the extent of requisitioning the Khasra Numbers for comparting the Kharif and the Rabbi crops and kept them for about a month and a half. But somehow he was persuaded by some Members of the Assembly to return them and luckily he did so. I request that something should be done to call a halt to the undesirable activities of this Executive Engineer. He is not an honest man. Now that the remodelling of the Moghas is to be undertaken and that a large sum of rupees four lakhs has been given by the Centre in this connection, he will be in a position to make a fortune for

In the end, Madam, I wish to say that this Government should conduct itself like a popular Government. It should have a soft corner for its people and should not impose taxation which the people cannot bear. I am in a position to say that the increase which this Government has effected in the abiana has not at all found favour with the cultivators and it should be done away with in no time.

Sardar Rattan Singh: (Ferozepore North-Sikh-Rural) (*Punjabi*). Madam, a good deal has been said about corruption in the Irrigation Department. I would like to place the whole position before this House as I have seen things in this department from quite close quarters in the capacity of a contractor. I think I am in a position to give as detailed an account of the working of this department as my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh gave of the General Administration. But before I speak on corruption I may place a suggestion or two for the consideration of the hon. Chief Minister. The first thing that I wish to point out is this that the officers of the Irrigation Department should be required to use some commonsense in emergencies and they should not at all times stick to the letter of the instructions. I may here narrate an incident in this connection. During the last floods we approached the Deputy Commissioner with the request that the canal bank may be broken at places because so much water had collected near the canal that if breaches were not effected, so many villages were in the danger of being inundated. The Deputy Commissioner directed us to the Executive Engineer. The Executive Engineer remarked that they could not make any breaches without the sanction of the Government as such a thing was not provided in their Manual. He did not accede to our request. But luckily the level of water owing to rains rose in the canal and some breaches were automatically caused in the banks. This was all an act of nature. But the Executive Engineer accused some innocent persons for making the breaches and wanted to prosecute them. It was awfully wrong on his part to do so and it was with some difficulty that he was persuaded, through the Deputy Commissioner, to withdraw his charges against the innocent people. In these circumstances I request that such officers should be asked to conduct themselves in an efficient and an honest manner. Here I may also remind the hon. Chief Minister that the construction of water-courses which was promised by him during his speech on the flood situation has not yet been put through. If action is not taken before the rains set in, I have fears that damage may be caused again.

I may say a few words about grow more food. I am of the opinion that more food can be grown by us if we make proper use of things. But

[Sardar Rattan Singh]

unfortunately it is not being done. The Executive Engineer by digging canals in my Ilaqa is doing much harm to the standing crops. If water is not to be run in these cannals this year, then he should p.stpone the digging work till after the crops are cut and if it was in their programme to run water in these cannals this year and the canals were to be dug before the water was to be opened in these canals this year. in that case arrangement of these canal routes should have been made earlier and the cultivators told not to throw seeds in these places. This would have saved the wastage of several hundred maunds of grains. These officers should be told that they should perform their duties a little more carefully and wisely

Now I come to corruption in the Irrigattion Department. I can say from my personal eperience that corruption, which is said to prevail in this department, is not even one per cent of that which is to be found in other departments. I have no hesitation in saying that this department tries its level best to avoid all possible waste of national funds. I can tell the hon. members that this department accepted my tender for one lakh and thirty two thousand rupees against two tenders, one being for two lakhs and the other for one lakh and fortyfour thousand pupees. This shows that the department attempted to effect a saving of Rs. 70,000 on the first tender and Rs. 12,000 on the second. I may also narrate another incident to illustrate the honesty of the officials. For the above said work I had to receive payments for seven bills at different times from this department and I gave one rupee to the Munshi to buy one anna revenue stamps which were to be affixed to the bills. After I had received the payment for my seven bills the Munshi was good enough to put the remaining nine annas out of the rupee in my hands. So I can say that so far as bribery is concerned it is not so rampant here as it is in other departments. Of course, I agree when it is said that this department suffers from the evil of communalism. Once I drew the attention of the Government to this fact through a question and the hon. Sardar Swaran Singh was pleased to say that it did not exist.

On the 17th arch, 1949, I put this question to the Minister-in-charge:-

Is the Government aware of the fact that there is a great Hindu Sikh tension amongst the supervising staff employed at Nangal and Bhakra Projects ?

I was told in reply that it did not exist. From my own experience I find that Hindu-Sikh question exists there to a very large extent. In partnership with another Hindu gentleman I had taken some contract in connection with this Project. The Hindu S. D. O. incharge of the work when he came to know that it was my work, instructed my men to get Shingle required for the job from a very very far off place although such

quality of Shingle was available from nearby places thus making me to spend more money, but when I sent my Hindu partner to him he allowed him to get from nearby places. Knowing about such communal tendencies in the minds of the staff I closed my works and stopped taking any further contracts in this project. There is a great deal of communalism among the Hindu and Sikh employees working in the Irrigation Secretariat. The Sikh employees are being subjected to great hardships. I brought this thing to the notice of His Excellency the Governor also when he went on tour in our district at the end of last year.

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (Hindi): Madam Deputy Speaker, a great deal of criticism has been levelled against the Irrigation Department. Usually the officers employed in a department are made the main target of attack, but in this case the chief point of criticism was that the Ministr-in-charge had no knowledge about this subject and he could not devote sufficient time to it. Afterwards it was complained that on account of this department having been placed under the charge of different Ministers from time to time, there had been no continuity of policy with respect to it. I beg to submit that though it is true that I am not an engineer or a technical expert still there was no scheme which I did not fully understand or on which I did not devote sufficient time. In this connection I got a pamphlet prepared which has been distributed among the hon. Members. In that pamphlet full information has been given regarding the work done by this department since partition and also the schemes which the Government had in hand irrigating land in different districts during the next year. After reading, that pamphlet, the hon. Members will be able to judge whether I take the necessary interest in this Department or not. I shall like to add that no scheme or proposal has ever been delayed. We have set up a Committee for dealing with the work connected with the Bhakra Project. It was constituted with the object of avoiding any delay in the completion of this project. As regards the complaint that the Minister-in-charge of this department had changed very frequently, I beg to submit that first of all my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh was incharge of it. In 1949, my hon. Friend Chaudhri Labri Singh took charge of it and since October, 1949, it has been under my charge. It is not correct to say that the Minister-in-charge of this department had changed very frequently. When Sardar Swaran Singh was incharge of this department I was the Premier and in that capacity I had to go through all the schemes. Later on, when Chaudhri Lahri Singh was incharge of it, I was Minister for Finance. At the time of preparing the Budget, the Finance Minister has to go through the work done by every department during the foregoing period

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and also that which it has to do during the following year. Since October, 1949, however, I am in charge of this department. This clearly shows that I have been going through all the schemes in one capacity or another. As regards the objection that I do not possess knowledge about this subject, I beg to submit that though I am not an expert, the work of this department has in no way sufferred on this account. I have been connected with this work in another capacity also Since the commencement of the Grow More Food Campaign I have been a member of the Committee entrusted with this work, whether I was Minister-in-charge of Irrigation or not. I have always been taking full interest in this work. Moreover, the Ministry works on the principle of joint responsibility. It was said that many evils were prevalent in this department May I enquire from my hon. Friend who was a member of the Cabinet and worked on the principle of joint responsibility, whether these evils existed at the time of his Ministership also or these crept in after his leaving the Cabinet ? My hon. Friend said that the Irrigation Department was most rotten and many evils existed in it. Undoubtedly hon. Sardar Partap Singh was not a Minister when the Government decided to increase water rate, but may I enquire from him if he took any steps to eradicate the evils complained of by him, when he was himself a Minister ? Does he mean to say that these evils came into existence only when he left the Ministry ?

My hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal appears to think that before the country became free, everything in the Irrigation Department was well during the British rule. In his opinion so long as the Englishmen were here as our rulers, nobody was as capable as they were, and the administration was perfect. He thinks that when our own Government came into power, all the evils also came along with it. In this connection I might point out that before the partition, the Irrigation Department devoted all its attention to the interests of West Punjab only. If I am not mistaken, the Bhakra Scheme was prepared in 1920 but no action was taken for its execution till 1946. The administration against which Chaudhri Sahib has no complaint, changed that scheme in order that instead of East Punjab getting benefit from it, West Punjab might profit by it. East Punjab was completely ignored at that time but my hon. Friend would say that every thing was all right then.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : May I put a question to the hon. Chief Minister ?

Chief Minister ; No, I am not going to give way.

A number of things have been said against this department. First of all I take up the question of the work done by it. It has been said that

I have not heard even a single suggestion for the removal of this corruption. I hope that the hon. Members who criticised would put forth some suggestions to root out corruption. But I have been disappointed. The hon. Member who was a Miniter for sometime said that there was no corruption among the officers at the top and the cause of corruption among the subordinate officials was their low salaries. This was the justification he gave for this corruption. This is not my justification. By only saying that there is corruption, it cannot be rooted out. The manner in which general critisism is made cannot be helpful in ending corruption, As regards the working of the Bhakra Project, I start from the time of the partition. When partition was decided, our officers took part in the deliberations connected with it. The result was that we got the maximum share of assets If our officers had been corrupt, such a thing could not have been done. Even uptil now we have canal water dispute going on with the Pakistan Government. Does the stand, taken by our officers in that dispute, not show that they are hardworking and intelligent ? Can any one keeping in view the stand taken by our officers ever since the partition in that dispute, say that our officers are corrupt ? Can anyone say that they are not honest and intelligent ? The work of Bhakra Project was started in 1946. During that year, much of the excavated tunnels were washed away by floods. Then came partition and with it the labour, which was mostly Muslim, migrated to Pakistan. Does the economy, with which the work has been conducted since then not prove that our officers know their job and are intelligent and honest ? The Chief Engineer Bhakra has shown an economy of Rs. 4 crores in the designs prepared by experts. Does this fact not show his intelligence and honesty ? And then the engineers gathered at the conference of Irrigation Engineers were also of the opinion that no foreign Engineers could have done better work than our Engineers. Does it not prove their intelligence ? So far as expenditure is concerned, I may point out one instance. We had to build hangers. For this purpose, we purchased machinery from the Disposals Department. The expenditure thus incurred was Rs. 5 per square foot. If we had built otherwise, the expenditure would have been Rs. 10 per square foot. Is it not saving ? It has been said that we sent abroad officers to import machinery. I have already said that the Punjab Government did not send any officers abroad for this purpose. In the beginning, orders used to be placed by the Provinces and tenders used to be invited. Other Provinces sent their engineers abroad. But afterwards, the Government of India decided that the machinery should be imported through the Ministry of Industries and Supplies. Consequently, all orders went through the Director General of Industries and Supplies. This process sometimes even created difficulties

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for us. For instance, we could not get direct even spare parts. We purchased some machinery from the Disposals Department also. Besides this, we also got some German machinery out of the Indian share in the war reparations. These purchases have been very cheap. We purchased a block of tractors for only Rs. 6, 600 and after spending Rs. 900 on repairs on each tractor, the whole block cost us Rs. 11,600. The price of one tractor today is Rs. 90,000.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: How many of them are in working order?

Chief Minister: All of them were put right and are in working order. I wish that the hon. Members who criticise the working of Bhakra Project had actually gone there to see things for themselves. The Nangal Project which is now almost complete has been carried out by the Engineers of Punjab. We had difficulties in the matter of procurement of machinery; but still we have completed it. It has also been said that we made a contract with some foreign firm and thereby we misappropriated funds. The fact is that we invited tenders and then we went to the Government of India. They decided that the work should not be entrusted to any firm but it should be done departmentally. I wish our critics had known that what they said was different from actual facts.

So far as labour is concerned, in the Irrigation Department the control is direct. In the Buildings and Roads Branch the case is different. Whatever we have done has been done quite diligently. As regards Bhakra Control Board, I have, already, explained the position of the Government. As a matter of general policy, a division is not created unless the work involved is of the tune of 30 lakh cusecs of water. For the creation of a circle, it has to be seen as to how many cusecs of water flow in it. Up till now we have spent Rs. 6.27 crores on the Nangal Project, which has 16 divisions. Then there is the question of expenditure on designs. The expediture that we incur on designs is less than that which is established by long usage and practice. The Central Designs Office usually charges 3 percent. But our expenditure, by doing this work departmentally comes to only, 7 percent.

Sir, it has been stated that there is no need for having a liaison officer at Delhi. But I wish to point that the Government has to get supplies of cement and coal etc., and for that purpose there is the necessity of keeping such an officer.

Another objection has been raised against the appiontment of a third Chief Engineer in the Irrigation Branch. In this connection, I would lik

to state the duties of the three administrations into which the Irrgiation Branch has been divided consequent upon the third appointment, so as to show the heavy nature of work with all the three Chief Engineers. These administrations in the Irrigation Branch comprise the following charges:—

Secretary Running Canals: He is incharge of establishment, and the following running canals systems *viz* :—Upper Bari Doab Canal, Sirhind Canal, Western Jumna Canal East, Drainage Division and also Revenue and General work in the Secretariat.

Secretary Bhakra Dam: Bhakra Dam Circle, Bhakra Mechamical circle, Nangal Circle, Central Designs office, Liaision Agency, Irrigation Research Institute Amritsar including Hydraulic Station, Malikpur and water dispute case and Central workshop Amritsar.

Secretary Bhakra Canal :—First Bhakra Main Line Circle, 2nd Bhakra Main Line Circle, Bist Doab Circle. Ferozepur. Canal Circle including Harike project, Bhakra Canals work in Sirhind Canal and Western Jumna Canal Circle. In addition he will also deal with partition work.

So it is quite clear that the heavy nature of work required Chief Engnieers for the Bhakra Dam and the Bhakra Canals separately. One Chief Engnieer could not cope with designing other work in connection with Bhakra. Besides there are other minor projects like Harike etc. In the United Punjab we had two Chief Engineers for running Cananls alone. But for such canals we have now only one Chief Engineer. It is wrong to say that our officers are not efficient. We have in fact very capable persons in the department. We have often been receiving demands for the services of particular persons not only from other States of India but even from the Centre. We have experienced hands whose advice is often sought by the Railway Department As a matter of fact, they have proved to be very capable and useful Engineers The advice tendered by our Engineers in the matter of damage to a bridge on the Jammu Pathan Kot Road has saved a loss which otherwise would have occurred. Our Engineers have carried on experiments in soil composition, lining, pressure etc, and on account of such experiments lakhs of ruppees are saved to the Government. We have always tried to effect saving wherever possible consonent with efficiency and progress. This year the following posts of Divisions and Sub-Divisions were abolished:—

(*a*) Deputy Liaison officer.

(*b*) 4 Remodelling Sub-Divisions (Sonepat, Rohtak, Hansi and Hissar) of western Jumna Canal East and West Circles.

(*c*) Special Revenue Sub-Division of Upper Bari Doab Circle.

[Chief Minister]

(*d*) Manak Sub-Division of Western Jumna Canal, East Circle.

(*e*) Sonepat Sub-Division of Western Jumna Canal, East Circle.

(*f*) Superintending Engineer, Project circle and staff.

(*g*) Hussaini Wala Division of Ferozepore circle.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: What about increase in expenditure ?

Chief Minister :—Please don't get impatient. There is a reduction of Rs. 1,68,000 on the expenditure side. Sir, a reference has been made to the Jagadhri Tubewell Project. In this connection I wish to inform the hon. Members that the scheme comprises 256 tubewells and it is framed to augment the supplies of the Western Jumna Canal. A contract for the sinking of 225 tubewells has been given to the Associated Tubewell Company and 31 tubewells are being sunk departmentally. The firm has undertaken to complete 50 tubewells by the end of 1951 and the remaining 175 by 1953. As regards 31 tubewells to be sunk by the department itself, eighteen are complete, seven are in hand, and the remaining six will also be completed by the end of 1951. So by the end of 1951 we will have about 81 tubewells ready. The Government of India will provide financial assistance in this matter. Here I would like to make a reference to the schemes for providing tubewells at Munak and Radaur. The Government is doing its best to complete these schemes as soon as possible. The cost of this scheme will be Rs. 20 lakhs approximately. We have an earnest desire to complete the Talu and Bhiwani Khera extension scheme also. But there are certain difficulties in the way. We are prepared to execute it as early as possible provided land and labour are available on co-operative basis.

Then, Sir, I would like to state something for the information of my hon. Friends from Kangra, who have complained that Government has done nothing worth the name for the betterment of the people of Kangra in the matter of provision of irrigation facilities. Let me tell them that in all 12 Kuhls in Kangra district have been taken in hand during this year. Then Sukh-Har Scheme has been sanctioned already and the work has been started. The Sidharta-Har scheme is also under active consideration and work will start soon. Besides this, Government always earmarks, particularly for the Kangra District, large amounts of money from funds provided for grow more food campaign. But it is a pity that despite this, my hon, Friends remain dissatisfied with the Government. The matter does not stop here. The Government has given its careful attention to explore the possibilities of improving existing irrigation system or executing new schemes in the Kangra district. In this connection I would draw the attention of the

hon. Members to the pamphlet "Punjab on the March" in respect of Irrigation. So far as the Kangra district is concerned, it is stated there in as follows:—

> This is a hilly district. There is no possibility of constructing big irrigation canal systems. There are also no possibilities of resorting to tubewell irrigation The only method of irrigation possible is improvement of the existing kuhls and constructing new kuhls in the Kangra and Kulu valleys. An area of 2,48,000 acres will be brought under irrigation by these methods.

This pamphlet has been supplied to all the hon. Members of this House and they will find what is contemplated by the Government regarding the provision of irrigation facilities to all the districts in the State. Of course, it does not contain a detailed survey of all the schemes but all the same an effort has been made to give an overall picture of the activities of the Government with regard to the improvement in the irrigation systems of the State. Then I may tell the House that the total cost of all these schemes comes to a colossal sum of rupees seventy five crores. We have requested the Government of India to advance a loan of 10 to 15 crores of rupees annually for the purpose of financing these schemes and in return we have assured it to supply food-grains worth the same amount next year. In other words if funds amounting to 75 crores of rupees are made available to us during the next five years, we shall be in a position to produce and export food-grains of equal value to the deficit areas every year.

Then, Sir, an objection has been taken by my hon. Friends with regard to the delay caused in the revision of the Canal Drainage Act, which comprises only 75 sections. I may tell the House that it is not as easy a job as the hon. Members think it to be. Since this enactment was made as far back as 1873, its revision needs detailed and careful study and knowledge of a very large number of law and departmental books. Let me tell the House briefly that the revision of Canal and Drainage Act VIII of 1873 was taken up in the year 1946 in the Joint Punjab on the recommendation of the Canal Act Committee appointed in 1939. The objects of redrafting the Canal Act are like this:—

(i) To improve almost all Sections of the Canal Act which have been found defective in actual practice ;

(ii) To introduce any amendments necessitated by the Tubewell irrigation and Bhakra Dam construction ;

(iii) To provide better facilities for acquiring, maintaining and using the water course's system by the cultivators ;

(iv) To make provision regarding control of land reclamation operations ;

[Chief Minister]

(v) To introduce any amendment required in the Kharaba Rules ;

(vi) To introduce any amendment in Rule 33–Charges I

Thus it will be seen that it is the serious intention of the Government to bring this enactment up-to-date. But it will take sometime before this task is accomplished. I know that it has been remarked that this Act is not very large and consists of only 75 sections. I admit this but hon. Members should just imagine the amount of water that has flowed under the Satluj Bridge since 1873. As a good many decades have elapsed, Government certainly needs enough time for making certain adaptations in the Act in the light of the past experience gained in this connection.

Now I would like to say something about the increase in Abiana. My hon. Friends over there have dubbed Abiana as a tax and consider it the most reprehensible and unjustifiable tax. Let me just remove their misunderstanding . Abiana is not a tax. It is the water rate. In other words Government charges a certain rate for rendering a certain service. That is the zamindar receives water and in lieu of that pays a certain rate which has now been doubled by the Government. It is said that this increase in water rate has been brought about arbitrarily without thoroughly examining the data justifying the enhancement I may tell the House that this is a wrong presumption. If I remember aright, the reasons for this action of the Government were not only stated here sometime ago, but were also given currency in the Press. The increase has been calculated on the basis of agricultural prosperity accrued to zamindars as a result of the provision of supply of canal water. In this connection I recollect to have issued a press communique clarifying the whole position. It was stated therein that the agricultural prosperity of a country was judged on the basis of three factors, namely, percentage of annual maturity of crops; yield in maunds and the price per maund. The assessment of all these facts showed that whereas the zamindars had prospered and benefited a lot as a result of rising prices of commodities and increased yield of crops due to the canal water supply, the abiana had remained stationary, despite the fact that there had been an increase in the Government expenditure on the maintenance of irrigation systems in the State. So in view of the appreciation of income of the zamindars, which is primarily due to the supply of canal water, it was decided to enhance the water rates so that Government may also get a little share of the prosperity accrued to them.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal: May I ask the hon. Chief Minister not to lose sight of the increasing expenses of the zamindars also ?

Chief Minister: I am coming to that. The hon. Member need not get restive. Well. Sir, we have increased Abiana to the extent of fifty per cent. I don't think it is much. We have demanded only one seventh of the share of the increased income that has accrued to the zamindars. I do not think that we are causing any hardship by making this reasonable demand on them In this connection I held out a promise to the House during the last Budget Session that I would be prepared to reduce the enhancement in the water rates and even forgo it totally provided the Resources and Retrenchment Committee suggested an alternative source of revenue. I may point out that the previous Retrenchment Committee, of which my hon. Friend Sardar Pratap Singh was also an active member, recommended the imposition of cent per cent increase in the abiana. But Government only decided to increase it by 50 per cent.

Then, Sir, betterment fee has come in for severe criticism. I may point out that it is not an innovation as has been stated by some of my hon. Friends. I would just draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that when Thal Project was completed, the Unionist Government imposed a betterment fee, apart from abiana, on all those zamindars whose lands received benefit of irrigation facilities from that project. As I have already stated water rates cover the capital cost and other kindred expenses. But the Betterment Fee is intended to be levied on that unearned income of the zamindar which accrues to him from the enhanced yield of crops resulting from the cheap and abundant supply of water by the Government, and rise in prices of commodities. The main object of its imposition is to cover interest charges and repay loans received by the Government for the construction of new irrigation schemes. Consequently Government has decided to impose this fee on all those zamindars whose lands receive irrigation facilities, from whatever source, be it from canals under the Bhakra Dam Project or from Tubewell schemes, which are going to be financed through loans. As the hon. Members are aware, the loans are to be repaid along with interest charges. It is, therefore, very essential that a Betterment Fee should be levied, otherwise it would become well nigh impossible to repay the dues because Government has no other source of revenue from which it could meet this expenditure. So the underlying principle is that Bhakra or no Bhakra Project, any irrigation facilities emanating from any irrigation scheme financed from loans will be accompanied by the levy of a betterment fee. Besides, this is a due charge because the price of the land appreciates as a result of supply of canal water. I may assure the House that the Better-

[Chief Minister]

ment Fee is not going to be imposed by fiat of the Government, but a regular Bill will be placed before the House on the subject for its approval and it will have ample opportunity to discuss it threadbare. I may also remove an erroneous impression under which some of my hon. Friends, are labouring. They think that betterment fee is levied only on irrigated land. It is also imposed in towns by the Improvement Trusts. Where the prices of houses appreciate as a result of widening the roads and provision of other facilities by the Improvement Trusts, a betterment fee is charged on such houses. So Government is entitled to have a share in the income which accrues to a person on account of appreciation of prices, be it of houses or of lands resulting from certain facilities provided by the Government.

My hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal has pointed out that I have not mentioned anything about the expenditure so far as this department is concerned. It is really a matter of deep regret that instead of advancing any constructive suggestions regarding the expenditure of the Irrigation Department, which is now before the House in the form of a Demand, my hon. Friends have not spared any pains in vehemently criticizing the working of the department. However, I may assure my hon. Friends in general and my hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal in particular that we are making all out efforts to effect strict economy in our expenditure (*Cheers*).

Further some of my hon. Friends have criticised the policy of the Government in paying special pays to officers with particular reference to the Irrigation Department. Here I would like to read out a few lines appearing in para 2. 52 of Civil Service Rules Vol. 1. It is given therein:—

These conditions are that the nature of duties attached to the post should be specially arduous and should involve specific addition to work or responsibility and unhealthiness of the locality in which the work is to be performed.

So far as the Irrigation Department is concerned, special pays are given to a few officers only. For instance the Chief Engineer, who is also the Secretary to Government Punjab is paid Rs. 250. per month as special pay. The special pay of this Officer has been fixed by the Government of India and it is not within our power to make any reduction in it. Some of the officers of the Engineering Department have to carry on their field work outside at different places and also the administrative work at their respective headquarters. Their work is specially arduous and they have also to put in extra work. Special pays are given to them for performing arduous duties

For instance the Chief Engineer who has to perform the field work at the sites and also the administration work in the Secretariat as the Secretary to Punjab Government is given the special pay as he specially earns it. Similarly Under Secretaries to Government Punjab, Director Central Designs, Executive Engineers Designs, Officer on Special Duty, (Partition) and Deputy Superintendents are paid special pays at the rate of Rs. 200-150-100-50-100 and Rs. 50 per month respectively. I may also mention here that this is not a new thing as these special pays, except of course of the Officer on Special duty, which post has been created after the partition, were in force in joint Punjab as well. My hon. Friends will also notice that the Assistant Engineers, Designs who used to be paid Rs. 100 per month as special pay in the United Punjab. are paid only Rs. 50. Since the officers of this department have to supervise the construction works at the sites they have to be away from their homes for a long time and it has therefore been felt necessary to give them the pec al pays. If we do not give the special pays to them, I am afraid, it may not be possible for us to extract work from such experienced and highly qualified officers as these. It has been stated that when there was no condition precedent to their appointment about the payment of special pays to them then they should not have been paid any additional amounts in the form of special pays etc. The fact of the matter is that they originally were recruited for field work and the condition was already there that they would be specially paid for any extra work.

Chaudhri Lehri Singh : But who has objected to it.

Chief Minister : Only those of my hon. Friends can be satisfied who want to be convinced. But how can those be satisfied who in spite of being convinced are not satisfied.

Chaudhri Lehri Singh : Please throw some light on Gurgoan.

Chief Minister : So far as the district of Gurgoan is concerned, I quite remember I was also present in the meeting when Shri Gadgil held out promises to my hon. Friend about providing his district with an adequate water supply. I was present in that meeting as the question relating to the canal water was also to be discussed there, otherwise I had no occasion to be there. At that time Shri Gadgil had promised to make water available to that district. The water from Western Jamuna Canal and not from the Bhakra canals was to be made available to the district of Gurgoan. The water from Bhakra was to be made available to Rohtak and Karnal and the remaining water was to be supplied to the district of Hissar and some other areas but not Gargaon. It was also discussed at that time whether Bikaner was to be supplied water first or afterwards. Shri Gadgil who was there in the capacity of a

[Chief Minister]

representative of Government of India decided that we should supply water to Bikaner first. It will not be out of place to mention here that all the River Valley schemes which are being undertaken by the State Governments are being worked out according to the instructions of the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is not supervising the working of such schemes just to help any State but it is doing so in the interests of India as a whole. As a matter of fact the Government of India are soon bringing in Parliament a legislative measure for bringing all the river-valley schemes under the direct control and direction of the Central Government. At the outset we objected to this move but it is the declared view of the Planning Commission that this step would be in the interests of India as a whole. The Commission is of the opinion that even the little quantity of water that is supplied to the people of Bikaner would really go a long way in developing their fertile lands.

Chaudhri Lehri Singh : The district of Gurgoan was to get water from Bhakra for 6 months.

Chief Minister : In spite of all this, Shri Gadgil could not fulfil the promises already held out by him to the people of the district of Gurgoan in general and my hon. Friend in particular. If my hon. Friend were to take the trouble of looking into the pamphlet already supplied to the hon. Members by the Government regarding Irrigation he would find that provision has been made for embarking upon certain schemes for providing adequate water supply to the district of Gurgoan. As a matter of fact we want to supply as much water to the district of Gurgoan as we can. This we can do by constructing dams for short supply purposes. So far two dams have been constructed. Moreover irrigation by tube-wells would also be investigated as it is no use to open canals here for irrigation purposes since the water of the canals cannot reach the lands. Under the circumstances I would request my hon. Friend Chudhri Lahri Singh and also the other hon. Members to go through the pamphlet on Irrigation and thus judge for themselves the future irrigation plans which are in hand or under the consideration of the Government for extending irrigation in various districts of the State.

Deputy Speaker : I want that the business of the House should be transacted in our own language. Under the circumstances I would request the hon. Members to try their level best to speak in their own language.

Deputy Speaker : Motion moved;

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

Shri Ram Sharma : Madam, in view of the assurances held out by the hon. Chief Minister in the course of his speech, I beg leave to withdraw the Cut Motion already moved by me.

The Motion was by leave with drawn.

Deputy Speaker : Question is

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,47,27,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year, 1951—52 in respect of charges on Irrigation Establishment.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m. on Tuesday the 27th March 1951.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

27th MARCH, 1951

Vol. III—No. 16.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 27th March, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m. of the Clock.

ABSENCE OF HONOURABLE SPEAKER.

Secretary : I have to inform the House that the hon. Speaker is unavoidably absent. The Deputy Speaker will, therefore, take the Chair.

(*Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal, Deputy Speaker, occupied the Chair.*)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CASES CHALLANED UNDER SECTION 153.

*3089. **Sardar Kabul Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of cases under section 153, which have been challaned in courts after 15th August, 1947, together with the names of the papers and presses whose securities have been confiscated under section 189 ;

(b) the number of cases under section 124-A, Indian Penal Code, which have been put in courts ;

(c) the number of cases which have come to light with respect to quarrels over the entry of language in the Census during the current Census Operations ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) First part: No case was challaned u/s 153 I. P. C.
Second part: No security deposited by any paper or press has bsen confiscated.

(b) Two.

(c) Nine so far.

RULES OF THE TAXATION DEPARTMENT.

*3093. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the rules regarding the fixation of the seniority of the Taxation Inspectorate Staff ;

(b) whether they are in conformity with the Civil Service Rules; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether these rules give seniority even to those who are discharged and re employed; if so, the reasons therefor ;

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) No Service Rules governing the recruitment and fixation of seniority, etc., of Taxation Inspectorate Staff have so far been framed.

(b) & (c) In view of the answer to part (a), these questions do not arise.

GRANT OF FIRE-ARMS LICENCES IN THE STATE.

*3095. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the criterion by which the District Magistrates, Punjab, generally are guided in sanctioning licences for fire-arms in the State ;

(b) the number of applicants along with their addresses who applied for the licences for guns, pistols and revolvers etc., thana-wise in District Ambala, from 1st January, 1950, up-to-date ;

(c) the number of such applicants who were granted licences for the above mentioned fire-arms along with dates thana-wise in District Ambala during the above mentioned period ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Licences for fire-arms are granted by the District Magistrates to suitable persons, according to statutory rules and instructions issued by Government. The instructions are of a confidential nature and it is not in the public interest to disclose them.

(b) & (c) The time and trouble involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us whether the rules framed on the subject after 1947, are different from those which existed before that year ?

Deputy Speaker : Since I have already called Sardar Sajjan Singh to ask his question, the hon. Member is not permitted to ask this supplementary question.

OVERSEERS.

*2780. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of the confirmed and temporary Overseers in the Public Works Department and Canal Department respectively on 15th August 1947 in the State;

(b) the number of the confirmed and temporary Overseers respectively in each of the aforesaid Departments on 31st August, 1950:

(c) the number of the temporary Overseers who have been in service for more than 3, 4, 5 and 6 years respectively together with reasons for not confirming them up to now;

(d) whether any of the students who passed from the Government Engineering School, Gurdaspur, was confirmed as an Overseer in the first instance in preference to those referred to in part (c) above; if so, their number up to 31st August, 1950 and the reasons for giving preference to them over the other already in service;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(e) whether any resolutions were passed this year at the annual General Session of the Engineering Overseers Association, P. W. D., Punjab, Simla, regarding promotions and other grievances and were submitted to the Government for consideration and necessary action; if so, the copies of the resolutions received by the Government and the action taken on each of them be laid on the Table?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(a) Permanent Overseers in the Canal Department on 15th August, 1947. — —	287
Temporary Overseers in the Canal Department on 15th August, 1947. — —	179
(b) Permanent Overseers in the Canal Department on 31st August, 1950. — —	259
Temporary Overseers in the Canal Department on 31st August, 1950. — —	452
(c) (i) Temporary Overseers of more than 3 years service but less than 4 years. — — — —	71
(ii) Temporary Overseers of more than 4 years service but less than 5 years. — — — —	50
(iii) Temporary Overseers of more than 5 years service but less than 6 years. — — — —	32
(iv) Temporary Overseers of more than 6 years service — — —	136
Total —	289

The temporary Overseers could not be considered for confirmation for want of permanent vacancies in the Irrigation Branch Punjab (India).

(d) No.

(e) The main demands of the Overseers are detailed below :—

(i) Their scales of pay should be increased from Rs. 90- 5-140/6- 200/7- 235/8- 275 to Rs. 150-10- 280/15- 475.

(ii) 50% posts for promotion to P. S. E. II should be reserved for Overseers.

(iii) Overseers should be eligible for promotion to Executive rank or higher charges.

(iv) 15 to 20 Overseers should be brought on quasi-permanent scale every year.

(v) Uniformity should be observed in fixing the seniority of various classes of establishment with respect to their date of appointment in the department.

(vi) Promotion to P. S. E. II from amongst the Overseers should be made strictly in order of seniority except when a man has been debarred for inefficiency or for other similar reasons.

The various demands of the Overseers as detailed above are under consideration of the Government and it is hoped the decision will be taken shortly and communicated to the Overseers Association. The copies of the resolutions of the Overseers Associsation are attached herewith.†

EJECTMENT OF TENANTS-AT-WILL.

*2901. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the largest number of ejectment notices have been issued this time to the tenants at-will in the State :

(b) the number of such ejectment notices, district-wise in the State ;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to protect the tenants from this large scale ejectments ?

†Kept in the Library

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram):

(a) There has been an increase in the number of ejectment notices issued in the districts of Hissar, Rohtak, Karnal, Kangra and Ferozepore as compared with the last few years.

(b) A statement is given below :—

NUMBER OF EJECTMENT NOTICES ISSUED IN 1950.

District.	No. of notices issued.
Hissar	1877
Rohtak	1644
Gurgaon	230
Karnal	884
Ambala	255
Simla	1
Kangra	210
Hoshiarpur	226
Jullundur	223
Ludhiana	278
Ferozepore	1463
Amritsar	748
Gurdaspur	270

(c) Most of these notices have been got issued by the displaced persons themselves because they want to have tenants of their ow nchoice. The tenants are likely to be eventually absorbed as most of the displaced p ersons are non-tillers themselves. Besides, Government observe that the ejectment in all these cases is not likely to be affected as in most cases the tentants will bring suits contesting the validity of

notices while others appear to have been issued simply to threaten the tenants to yield to the wishes of landlords. The issue of ejectment notices, therefore, cannot be taken to affect the lot of tenants in general, as the existing law gives enough security.

(By the time Shri Ram Sharma rose to ask supplementary questions, the Deputy Speaker had called the next question.)

Shri Ram Sharma : Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary please state as to ...

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member is a little late in asking his supplementary question. I have in the meantime called upon him to ask the next question on the list.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Madam. May I know whether no supplementaries are going to be permitted by the Chair?

Deputy Speaker : I would be too glad to permit the hon. Member to ask even twenty supplementary questions, provided they are asked just in time. Now I have already called for the next question to be asked and, therefore, no supplementary question on the main question can be allowed.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I just draw the attention of the Chair to the fact that I had just stood up to ask a supplementary question after the Parliamentary Secretary had finished his reply, but I was not further allowed to make interpellations ?

Deputy Speaker : I may tell the hon. Member that when he was called by the Chair to ask his question, he was not in his seat. Then Shrimati Sita Devi asked it on his behalf. In the meantime the hon. Member managed to reach his seat. I think he had not made up his mind to ask any supplementary question. But when I had called upon him to ask the next question, he at once thought of asking a supplementary question, which I am sorry, I cannot permit him to ask at this stage.

Shri Ram Sharma : While I bow to your ruling, may I take it that if a question of an hon. Member is asked by another hon. Member and in the meantime the former occupies his seat, then he is to be deprived of the right of interpellations? If so, how does he become ineligible for asking supplementary questions?

Deputy Speaker: My decision stands and I do not want any advice from the hon. Member.

Shri Ram Sharma: I quite obey your order. But I am afraid lest the ruling of the hon. Deputy Speaker should be a bad precedent. Will you kindly revise your ruling?

Deputy Speaker: I may tell the hon. Member that I am not afraid of supplementaries. I can permit any number of them being asked. But I cannot allow any irregularity in the conduct of proceedings of the House (*Hear, hear*) I have called the next question to be asked and I cannot permit interpellations on the previous question. I still repeat that the hon. Member had not made up his mind to ask any supplementary question till after he had been called to ask the next question, when all of a sudden he thought of asking a supplementary question I would, however, bear in mind to wait a little while, to enable the hon. Members to rise aud ask permission for putting supplementaries

Shri Ram Sharma: May I take it that according to the ruling of the Chair, an hon. Member will lose his right of asking supplementary questions, if he is not in his seat at the time of his question having been asked on his behalf by another hon. Member, but he manages to reach his seat by the time the reply to the main question is completed and then rises to ask supplementaries? If that is so, I am afraid a wrong precedent may not be established. Will the hon. Deputy Speaker revise her ruling?

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member Pandit Shri Ram Sharma is a Parliamentarian of a long standing and I would certainly avail of his advice, as and when I need it. But now I have called the next question to be asked and I cannot allow him to ask any supplementary question to question No. 2901. I call upon him to ask his next question.

EJECTMENT OF TENANTS.

*2902. **Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of ejectment notices issued to the tenants each year since the partition in the districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hissar and Karnal ;

(b) the reasons for the increase in the number of such notices and the manner in which the Government intend to check it ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

(a) A statement is laid on the Table.

(b) Most of these notices have been got issued by the displaced persons because they want to have tenants of their own choice. The tenants are likely to be eventually absorbed as most of the displaced persons are non-tillers themselves. Besides, Government observe that the ejetment in all these cases is not likely to be effected as in most cases the tenants will bring suits contesting the validity of notices while others appear to have been issued simply to threaten the tenants to yield to the wishes of landlords. The issue of ejectment notices, therefore cannot be taken to affect the lot of tenants, in general.

No. of Ejectment Notices issued to tenants each year since partition.

District	No. of notices issued during :			
	1947	1948	1949	1950
Hissar	326	1695	1086	1877
Rohtak	59	409	512	1644
Gurgaon	503	295	538	230
Karnal	Nil	101	400	884

Shri Ram Sharma : From the statement that has been supplied to me, I find that during the last three years the ejectment notices issued to the tenants have been very large. May I know what steps have the Government taken or propose to take to put a stop to the ever increasing number of ejectments ? May I know whether Government wants to allow this state of affairs to continue ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Reply to part (b) of the main question covers this supplementary question. I have nothing more to add to what I have already stated except that barring these four districts the number of notices of ejectment served on the tenants in the remaining 8 districts has been extremely small. Government, therefore, feel that the existing laws are sufficient to protect the interests of the tenants.

Shri Ram Sharma : My question relates to the ever increasing number of ejectment notices issued to the tenants in the districts of Hissar Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal. May I know what effective measures are being adopted by the Government to protect the tenants when it claims to introduce far reaching land reforms for the betterment of these people ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already replied this question twice. However, I would like to add, for the information of the hon. Member, that most of these notices have been got issued by the displaced persons themselves because they want to have tenants of their own choice. The landlords have made all-out efforts to bring pressure upon their tenants with a view to eject them and thus get their land cultivated through tenants of their own choice.

Shri Ram Sharma : Madam, I am really surprised to hear the reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary. What I want to know is, whether the Government is aware of the fact that the number of the ejectment notices is on the increase and that it has resulted in discontentment among the people. What steps does the Government intend to take in this matter. The Parliamentary Secretary is not giving any reply to my points. What I wanted to know is this. In view of the fact that in the district of Rohtak, there being no *jagirs* larger than those in the district of Hoshiarpur etc., the number of ejectment notices has increased from 512 to 1644, may I know if the Government intends to take any steps to check this increase ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that in my reply to part (b) above. However, I would like to add that the existing laws provide sufficient secruity to tenants against their being ejected by the landlords.

Shri Ram Sharma : In view of the reply of the Parliamentary Secretary may I know if the Government is aware of the fact that in the district of Rohtak the number of such notices has been on the increase during the last three years. How does the Government feel that sufficient protection is being given to the tenants ?

Minister For Public Works : My hon. Friend knows it full well that after the passage of the Security of Tenants' Tenure Bill into law during the last session of the Assembly, the conditions have improved.

Shri Ram Sharma : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that in spite of the passage of the Tenants' Tenure Bill into law, and the justification given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the effect that the existing laws are sufficient to secure the rights of the tenants, the number of notices issued against them has increased from 512 to 1644 during the last three years. What has been the effect then of this Act already referred to by the hon. Minister for Public Works ? Are the existing laws sufficient to afford adequate protection to the tenants against their being ejected by the landlords ?

Minister : Much has been done to safeguard the interests of the tenants As a matter of fact the Security of Tenants' Tenure Bill was framed with the intention that after its passage into law Government would be able to reduce the number of these ejectments through the co-operation of the hon Members.

Deputy Speaker : Before I call the hon. Members to put supplementaries, I would request them not to ask supplementaries for the mere sake of asking them as in this way much of the time of the House is wasted. At the same time I would request the hon. Members on the Treasury Benches to answer every question straightaway and give whatever information they have in their possession. They should not give the information bit by bit.—(*Hear, hear*).

Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Madam. You have been pleased to remark that I ask supplementaries simply for the sake of asking and also far wasting the time of the House. What I wish to point out is that I never ask supplementaries with the motive as referred to by you. In fact I will be the last person to resort to such practices.

Deputy Speaker : It is a matter of deep regret that the hon. Member Shri Ram Sharma has misunderstood me. I have asked the hon. Members of the House not to waste the time of the House by asking supplementaries for the mere sake of asking them and at the same time I have also asked the hon Members on the Treasury Benches to give clear and definite replies. I have not particularly mentioned the name of the hon. Member.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : In spite of the enforcement of the provisions of the Security of Tenants' Tenure Act and the existing laws, the number of ejectment notices in the district of Rohtak alone, has increased from 512 to 1644 Should I take it that the

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

existing laws are not sufficient to give adequate protection to the tenants ? In view of the reply of the hon. Minister, that the hon. Members do not co-operate with the Government to enforce the provisions of the existing laws, may I know what steps does the Government propose to take in this district with a view to check further ejectments ?

Minister : There is no doubt that the number of ejectment notices has increased during the last three years. The reasons for this are not far to seek. It was due to the fact that zamindars, who owned even 5 acres of land, had begun to feel that they might be deprived of their lands if they entrusted the cultivation work to their tenants. But this feeling has been assuaged as a result of the passing of the Security of Tenants, Tennure Bill according to which the owners of less then 100 acres of land have been convinced that nobody is going to touch their lands and they have thus called their tenants back to work in their fields and this they have done of their own accord.

Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Minister has stated that the tenancy legislation has been instrumental in the stoppage of ejectments, may I know as to why the enforcement of the provision of this legislative measure, so far as the district of Rohtak is concerned, has not been instrumental in checking the ever increasing number of such notices as is clear from the Statement already supplied to me containing the various figures.?

Minister : I have already stated that the landlords had begun to fear that they might be deprived of their lands for all time to come in case they continued giving their lands to tenants for cultivation purposes and they, therefore, started issuing notices of ejectment against their tenants. Notices of ejectment were also issued by those landlords who did not receive their due share of the crops from their tenants. Last but not the least, notices of ejectment have also been issued by those landlords who wanted to have tenants of their own choice. There are provisions in the Tenancy Act to safeguard the interests of such tenants as could otherwise be ejected by their landlords without any rhyme or reason. Moreover, this Act also removes all doubts and misunderstandings in the minds of the landlords.

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : Is the Government aware of the fact that after the passage of this Act the number of the notices of

ejectments has increased and is increasing day by day. Is it the intention of the Government to amend this Act with a view to stop the ejectment notices ?

Minister : These notices of ejectments have also been issued by those landlords who have reserved land for themselves and want to oust the tenants from that land.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is the Government aware of the fact that there are no such landlords in the district of Rohtak whom certain sections of this Act regarding the res rvation of land etc., can apply ? May I know as to how this Act has resulted in checking the ejectments of the tenants ?

Minister : I know that most of such landlords are not to be found in the district of Rohtak who have reserved land for themselves, but all the same I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Member that since the people in the rural areas are illiterate and ignorant, even land owners having small holdings were afraid lest they should be deprived of their land. My hon. friend has not given much publicity to the policy underlying this legislative measure to the effect that the landlords should have no fears whatsoever about their land. It appears that he has not given sufficient publicity to the aims and objects with which this Act was passed by the House with a view to convince the landlords as well as the tenants about the security of their rights.

Pandit Faqir Chand: If panic conditions prevail in villages, may I know why the Publicity Officers do not inform the Government ?

Minister : They give as much information as is available.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the panic has increased after the passing of the previous Act ?

Minister : Intensity of panic has decreased.

Shri Ram Sharma : The intensity of panic can be gauged by the fact that there has been an increase in the number of ejectment notices which has swelled from 500 to 1600, in a year.

Minister : This number would have still increased if the panic had not subsided.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it because of the fact that the Publicity officers are incompetent ('nalaiq') that necessary propaganda has not been made ?

Deputy Speaker : I would request the hon. Member to withdraw the word 'nalaiq'.

Shri Ram Sharma : Very well, Madam, I withdraw this word.

Minister : This is a matter of opinion.

JAGIRS.

*2903 **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state:—

(a) the total amount being paid in Jagirs in the State at present;

(b) the total number of Jagirs, including the largest and the smallest Jagirs;

(c) the steps Government has so far taken towards the abolition of this system;

(d) whether any distinction is being made while abolishing these Jagirs, if so, the basis thereof together with the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) About twenty three lakhs per annum.

(b) About fifteen thousand.

(c) Government have, so far, issued orders to stop temporarily the payment of jagirs amounting to Rs. 2400/ p. a. and above excepting those for religious, charitable and educational purposes and for personal bravery in the battle-field.

(d) The whole matter is still under the consideration of Government and no final decisions have yet been made in this regard.

Shri Ram Sharma : The hon. Chief Minister has stated in reply that the matter is still under the consideration of Government.

May I know whether the Government has formed any view as to which of the jagirs will be abolished ?

Chief Minister : According to the partition order, the payments of these jagirs have to be made by the Pakistan Government. We cannot stop the payment because if we wipe off our responsibility such people who have come from the West Punjab would suffer. We have, therefore, to settle this matter with the Pakistan Government. The whole matter is under the consideration of Government and we have not taken any final decision so far.

Shri Ram Sharma : Is it not a fact that the Government made several declarations that it would abolish the system of jagirs ?

Chief Minister : The Government have so far issued orders to stop temporarily the payment of jagirs. We have never said that these jagirs will be abolished. The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the whole matter is under the consideration of the Government and it has not yet taken any decision. May I know how long will it take to arrive at a decision in this regard as people have made several representations in this behalf ?

Chief Minister : I can't say when the matters arising out of the partition of the State will be decided as on these matters depends the final decision with regard to these jagirs.

Shrimati Sita Devi : There are many families who owned jagirs in the West Punjab and they mainly depended upon them for their subsistence. Now such people are in great distress. Will the Government hold out some assurance to these people that the matter will be decided at an early date ?

Chief Minister : We are trying our best but it is not in our power to settle these matters with the Pakistan Government so early. There are lakhs of displaced persons here who have not been able to stand on their own legs but the Government is making its best efforts to do all that is possible for it in the circumstances.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the Pakistan Government have made any payments in respect of these jagirs ?

Chief Minister : We have received no money from the Pakistan Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that the hon. Minister for Revenue sometime back declared in a public meeting that the Government propose to abolish the system of jagirs?

Chief Minister : There is no question of abolishing these jagirs but the Government have issued orders to stop temporarily the payment of jagirs. After collecting the necessary data we are to consider the matter before taking a final decision.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know to what extent the payment of these jagirs has been suspended?

Chief Minister : It has already been stated in the reply to this question that the payment of jagirs amounting to Rs. 2400/- p. a. and above has been stopped temporarily.

OCCUPANCY TENANTS.

*2904. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is intending to introduce a Bill to turn occupancy tenants into land-owners in the State;

(b) whether the question of compensation to the real owners has been decided;

(c) the time likely to be taken to confer ownership rights on the occupancy tenants?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) Is under the consideration of Government.

(c) The time cannot be estimated at present because it will depend ultimately upon the legislation being enacted by the vote of the Assembly.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know if the Government propose to introduce a Bill during this session to turn occupancy tenants

into land owners when the Committee has already submitted its report ?

Chief Minister : If the Bill is drafted it will be introduced.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Does the Government propose to promulgate any ordinance in this behalf ?

Chief Minister : There is no question of promulgating any ordinance. If the Bill is not introduced in this session it will be introduced during the next session.

Shri Ram Sharma : May I know whether the Government is taking steps for drafting this Bill ?

Chief Minister : It is with the Legal Remembrancer.

THE NUMBER OF HARIJANS AMONG TAHSILDARS.

*3086 **Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of vacancies in the posts of Tahsildars filled directly during the current year and the number of Harijans amongst them ;

(b) if no Harijan has been selected, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the number of Harijans who are at present working as Tahsildars, if none, the manner in which Government propose to make up the deficiency of Harijans in this cadre ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

(a) Nil

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Nil. At the time of recruitment of Tahsildar candidates Harijans will get 15% of the vacancies in accordance with Government instructions.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : May I know if the Government propose to take a Harijan as Tehsildar when such posts are not already filled by Harijans ?

Parliamentary Secretary : 15% of the vacancies have been reserved for Harijans

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : May I know whether these instructions are strictly adhered to ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes.

ACCOMMODATION IN PRIVATE BUSES.

*3091. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that accommodation provided at present in private buses for a passenger is not sufficient ;

(b) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in this matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

(a) The seating capacity of 15" x 15" in lower class and 18" x 18" in upper class provided for a passenger is sufficient. Some difficulty may have been experienced as a result of the permission to carry 25% extra passengers which was allowed consequent on the promulgation of the Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941.

(b) The concession of carrying 25% extra passengers is being withdrawn.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know when did the Motor Spirit Rationing Order expire ? When was the permission to carry 25% extra passengers withdrawn ?

Parliamentary Secretary : This expired sometime back. So far as the revision of the order is concerned, the concession was withdrawn sometime back. Now the order has been issued that the previous order may be treated as cancelled.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : If it is a fact that the permission to carry twenty five per cent passengers in excess was conditional, why

is it that it is still being continued despite the fact that the petrol rationing has ended ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already replied to it but I repeat the reply to bring it home to the hon. Member. Since the Motor spirit Rationing Order, 1941 has been repealed and the rationing of petrol has been abolished, instructions are being issued to the Regional Transport Authorities to revise the rules relating to seating capacity in buses and I think the permission to carry 25% extra passengers will be withdrawn.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The Parliamentary Secretary should give a definite reply whether it has been withdrawn or not by this time.

Minister for Public Works : Yes, it has been withdrawn.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The Parliamentary Secretary has stated that it is under consideration that it is what 'is being withdrawn' means. The hon. Minister says that orders have been issued. Day before yesterday I was travelling in a bus which was carrying 25% extra passengers. How can the Government say that permission has been withdrawn ? Either the hon. Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary has not spoken the truth.

Minister : Both have spoken the truth.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister says that both of them have told a lie.

Deputy Speaker : Every hon. Member is expected to think before he speaks and to listen when others reply. The hon. Minister for Public Works had stated that both of them had spoken the truth. He had not said that they had to'd a lie The hon. Member should withdraw his words

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, I withdraw the words. Now may I know which of the statements is correct ? Have the orders been issued or is the matter still under consideration ?

Minister : If the orders are issued it does not mean that all the companies come to know of them in a minute. It is possible the orders might not have been received by the bus service by which my Friend has travelled. When these have

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already been issued it should be taken to mean that the permission question has been withdrawn and that is the light in which my frie should take it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated that th orders might not have been received by a certain bus service. Does that mean that the Government does not follow uniform policy i this matter ?

Minister : No, the orders are binding on all bus companies.

RETRENCHMENT OF SUB-INSPECTORS OF CONSOLIDATION DEPARTMENT.

*3092. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that by the abolition of the present Consolidation of land holdings Department and consolidation work being handed over to the Revenue Department about seven hundered Sub-Inspectors have been thrown out of employment, if so, the steps, proposed to be taken by the Government to provide those Sub-Inspectors with other jobs ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM REVENUE PATWARIS.

*3094. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib**: Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue patwaris put their grievances before the Government through their representatives and have demanded Rs, 50/- as their starting pay; if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government on their representations ;

(b) whether Government have made the services of the patwaris pensionable, if the answer to part (b) above be

in the affirmative, whether all the previous period of the patwaris will be counted towards pension ?

Parliamentary Secretay : (Thakur Beli Ram) :

(a) 1st Part — Yes.

2nd Part — The grade of Patwaris has been raised from Rs. 25-1-35/1-45 to Rs. 30-1-40/1-45. No further increase in their pay is possible in view of acute financial stringency.

(b) 1st Part — Yes.

2nd Part — The previous period of only those Patwaris who retire after the 1st August, 1964 will be counted towards pension.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it within the knowledge of the Government that the wages of an unskilled labourer amount to Rs. 45 per mensem these days ?

Minister for Public Works : Yes, perhaps there is truth in it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : In view of this, does not the Government think it desirable to sanction a starting salary of Rs 50 for the patwaris who are educated people especially because the cost of living has risen so high ? Can they he expected to make both ends meet with their present salary ?

Minister : It is difficult no doubt but I think they can pull on.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What steps has the Government taken to solve this difficulty of the patwaris ?

Minister : Effort is being made to bring down the level of prices.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Can the Government furnish any information on the basis of which it may be able to say that there has been a fall in the prices as compared with last year ?

Minister : It is a matter of general observation. Wheat flour which was selling at Rs 60 to Rs 70 per maund in 1948 is today selling at a much lower price.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Does the Government think that the prices have risen higher or come down this year as compared with the last year ?

Minister : The hon. Member must be visiting the bazar daily and so it is easy for him to ascertain.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Can the Government quote any figures in this connection ?

Minister : Yes, but not off hand.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is this the information of the Government that the prices have come down to a lower level this year ? Is it not a fact that, on the other hand, they have risen higher ?

Minister : Prices of some commodities have gone down and it is possible prices of others have gone up.

Sardar Bachan Singh : What about the prices of the necessaries of life? Have they risen or come down ?

Minister : I can't say off hand.

Sardar Bachan Singh : What about the prices of controlled articles? Have they registered a rise or fall ?

Minister : Prices of a few articles may have shown an upward tendency but in general there has been a fall in general price level.

Chief Minister : When procurement started last year the price of wheat was Rs. 13 per maund but since July last it is Rs. 12/12/- per maund.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister please state where the price of what flour had touched a ceiling of Rs. 60 per maund?

Minister : I was referring to Simla. In Gurdaspur and Amritsar also, the prices had gone up.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the hon. Minister referring to the control price or the purchases made in blackmarket?

Minister : I was talking of the time when the controls had been removed in accordance with the wishes of the people.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it not a fact that the cost of living index for this year is higher than that for the last year ?

Minister : If the hon. Member is sure of this information, I shall try to benefit by it.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Will the hon. Minister concerned take the trouble of comparing the indices of cost of living which are published in the official Gazette of Punjab Government ?

Minister : I shall do that.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon. Minister has said that the price of wheat flour shot up to Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 in Simla. May I ask how such a thing could happen at Simla when this was a rationed town ?

Deputy Speaker : This supplementary does not arise out of the main question.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : In case, on comparison of indices, it is found that the index for this year has gone up will the Government take steps to increase the wages ?

Minister : The hon. Member may kindly read the reply, given to the main question a little more closely.

AMOUNT OF MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE UNION GOVERNMENT FOR REHABAILITATION PURPOSES.

*2872 **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to State the total amount of money received by the State from the Union Government for rehabilitation purposes during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st December, 1950 ?

The hon. Sardar Isher Singh Mujhail : The Punjab State has received(the amount for 1950-51 is yet to be paid) the following amounts from the Government of India for Relief and Rehabilitation

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purposes during the period 15th August, 1947 up to the end of the current financial year (i. e. 31st March 1951.)

					Rs.
1.	Relief.	—	—	—	9,82,10,947
2.	Rehabilitation.—		—	—	2,34,51,975
	(i) Grants.	—	—	—	2,34,51,975
	(ii) Loans.	—	—	—	11,51,39,000
Total (Rehabilitation)		—	—	—	13,85,90,975
Grand Total :		—	—	—	23,68,01,922

It is not possible to split up the figures up to 31st Deceamber 1950.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the Central Government charging any interest on the loan that it has given to the Punjab Government for rehabilitation purposes ?

Minister : Interest is being charged.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What is the rate of interest that is being charged by the Central Government from the Punjab Government ?

Minister : I think the rate is 4½ per cent per annum.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Should not the Punjab Government have represented to the Central Government that partition had been effected under the orders of the Central Government and, therefore, the whole expenditure on rehabilitation should be borne by that Government. And that if somehow it did not think fit to bear the whole burden, it should not have charged any interest on the loan from the Punjab Government ?

Mini ter : I am thankful to my hon. Friend for his suggestion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did the Punjab Government ever represent to the Central Government that the expenditure on rehabilitation should be borne by that Government ?

Chief Minister : It has been so many times proposed to that Government.

(*Shri Prabodh Chandra stood up and began to ask a supplementary question*)

Deputy Speaker: In the first place the hon. Member should remember that he should always prefix his question with the words "Supplementary Question", and in the second place he should allow me some time to call out his name.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, I did not allow you any time on purpose lest you should get tired by calling out my name so often. However, I wish to know the reply that the Central Government has given to the representations for assuming the responsibility of expenditure on rehabilitation ?

Chief Minister : It was not willing to assume responsibility for this expenditure, otherwise we would have been given a grant in place of the loan.

PERMITS FOR IRON AND STEEL QUOTAS IN THE STATE

*3096. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications together with their dates district-wise received by the iron and steel Licensing Officer, Punjab, from the Public for the grants of permits for quotas of iron and steel for the construction of private houses, schools, Dharamsalas and temples from 1st January 1950 to date;

(b) the number of such applications where the applicants were given permits for quotas of iron and steel during the above-mentioned period along with a list of such applicants and the dates on which permits were given in each case ;

(c) whether all such permits were issued on the nearest depots as mentioned in their applications by the applicants ;

(d) the daily and monthly average of the disposal of such applications during the above-mentioned period along with the total number of such applications disposed of by the department during the same period ;

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(e) the quantity of iron and steel given to individuals for private construction or use along with the quantity given to the manufacturers during the same period ;

(f) the reasons for transferring the iron and steel section of the Industries Department to the Department of Civil Supplies ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

(a) to (e). It is regretted that the information required cannot be furnished as the labour involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with the result to be achieved.

(f) The transfer of iron and steel work from the Industries Department to the Civil Supplies Department was effected so that the distribution of coal, coke, iron and steel could be correlated to each other under one and the same Department

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HINDU SABHA COLLEGE AMRITSAR.

*3076. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth**: Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a representation was made to him by Dr. Sant Ram Seth in writing that the money in the Hindu Sabha College is being misappropriated; if so, the action the Government contemplate to take against the Authorities of Hindu Sabha College, Amritsar?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand:

Yes, Some representations were received regarding misappropriation of money in the Hindu Sabha College, Amritsar. These were forwarded to the University for necessary action. Their reply is "The University, under the Regulations, can only move in the matter of disaffiliation of an affiliated college if the requirements of the regulations in regard to the Endowment Fund and Teaching staff, etc., are not observed by the affiliated college. In a matter of misappropriation of money in an affiliated College the matter rests entirely with the Managing body of the College, who can report the matter to the police or take any other legal action".

LOCUSTS IN DISTRICT HOSHIARPUR.

*3090. **Sardar Kabul Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the date on which the locust made its first appearance in the Hoshiarpur District ;

(b) the date on which the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur asked for pecuniary help for the destruction of this pest and the date on which the Government sanctioned it together with the reasons for the delay, if any?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand :

(a) 28th January, 1951.

(b) *First part:* 8th February, 1951.

Second part: 13th February, 1951. Before the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, asked for pecuniary help, a sum of Rs. 47,000/- was already placed at the disposal of the Entomologist to Government, Punjab, Ludhiana, for locust destruction during the current financial year in this State.

Third part:—Does not arise.

JEEP CARS

*2781. **Sardar Sajjan Singh**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether at the time of the Hyderabad police action some Jeep Cars including No. 9993 were taken into possession by the Amritsar Police; if so, their list together with the following particulars;

(i) the name of the owner together with his full address ;

(ii) the number or the Motor Vehicle taken into possession ;

(iii) the date when taken ;

(iv) the date when returned;

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(b) whether any compensation as daily hire was paid to the owners of those jeeps upto 31st August 1950; if so, the amount paid to each of them; if not, the reasons for non-payment;

(c) the daily hire fixed for each jeep car;

(d) whether any of the jeep cars referred to in part (a) above was detained by the authorities even after the termination of the victory of Hyderabad police action; if so, for what period and the reasons therefor?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

The hon. Member may please refer to reply to his unstarred question No. 639 †

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly say as to what was the compensation paid for the jeep in question?

Chief Minister : I shall be in a position to tell the hon. Member after collecting the necessary information.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : But is not this supplementary question covered by the main question?

Chief Minister : The necessary answer would have automatically come forth in case the hon. Member had directly asked about the compensation for the jeep.

SIGNALLERS.

*2782. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the duty and leisure hours of the Canal Department signallers on the Upper Bari Doab Canal during a working day ;

(b) whether Sunday is a closed day for the aforesaid persons ;

(c) (i) whether any telegrams were sent or received by the persons referred to in part (a) above on Sundays during the period from 1st April, 1950 to 30th June, 1950 ; if so, the number and words of the telegrams received and despatched by each of the canal signallers on the aforesaid canal ;

(ii) the reasons for sending these telegrams on closed days ;

(d) whether any canal signaller was paid for this extra duty; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Duty hours of canal signallers on a working day are as under :—

From 15th April to 14th October : 7 to 10; 12 to 16; 19 to 22.

From 15th October to 14th April : 8 to 10; 12 to 16; 19 to 22.

Intervals in between give leisure hours.

(b) Sunday is a partially closed day for the canal signallers and the working hours on this day are given below :—

From 15th April to 14th October. : 7 to 10; 19 to 22.

[Chief Minister]

From 15th October to 14th April : 8 to 11; 19 to 22.

(c) (i) Yes, number of telegrams received during the period 1st April, 1950 to 30th June, 1950, per canal signaller per Sunday are as below :—

Received.	Despatched.
3	2

Time and labour involved in counting the number of words of each telegram is not considered commensurate with the advantage to be gained by this information.

(ii) Signallers in the Canal Department are maintained wholly for regulation of supplies in the channels and as the latter have to be kept running the signallers cannot be allowed to have a complete holiday on Sundays.

(a) No. Sundays are not complete holidays for canal signallers and no allowance is admissible for working on Sundays.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Are these signallers paid any thing extra for receiving or sending telegrams at a time beyond their prescribed hours of work ?

Chief Minister : Unless there be some emergency, no telegrams are sent after the working hours.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is there any such day in the whole year when these persons have a full holiday ?

Chief Minister : No.

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CANAL WATER SUPPLY TO VILLAGE THATHI JAIMAL SINGH.

*2785. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) whether any complaint by Sardar Sohan Singh and other zamindars of village Thathi Jaimal Singh, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, was received by the Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, of the Upper Bari Doab Canal on or about 25th January, 1931 with my forwarding letter No. 89, dated 23rd January, 1951 to the effect that they were not receiving any canal water since July, 1950 ;

(ii) if the answer to part (a) (i) above be in the affirmative, whether any enquiry was made into the matter by the Canal authorities ; if so, with what result ;

(b) (i) whether any area of the above-mentioned village was irrigated by canal water between 31st July, 1950 and 31st January, 1951 ; if so, the extent of the area actually irrigated by canal water during each of the months of August, September, October, November, December, 1950 and January 1951 separately ;

(ii) the total area in the said village irrigated by canal water during each crop of 1946-47, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 ;

(c) (i) whether there has been any deficiency in the irrigated area of this village after the partition; if so, the reason therefor ;

(ii) the steps, if any, taken by the Government to make up the deficiency in the irrigated area of this village and the results thereof ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) (i) Yes.

(ii) The case was investigated.

During floods of September, 1950, Basarke Distributary was cut at two points by the local

[Chief Minister]

zamindars viz. R. D. 66000 and R. D. 68000 in order to drain off rain water accumulated in that area. All the area in the vicinity of these gaps was under water upto end of November 1950 and no earth was available to close the gaps. It was in December 1950 that the gaps were closed. The Thathi Jaimal Singh village at the tail of Basarke did suffer in October and November 1950 but it could not be helped in order to relieve the flooded areas.

(b) (i) Area of village Thathi Jaimal Singh irrigated from 31st July, 1950 to 31 January, 1951 is given below :—

August, 1950 ——	13 acres.
September 1950 to January 1951	Nil

During this period there was no demand for canal water in this locality on account of flooding.

(ii) A statement giving the information is placed on the table. †

(c) (i) Irrigation figures show that irrigation in 1948-49 and 1949-50 was 488 and 530 respectively, against 520 acres permissible. This village touches the border and the zamindars cannot freely cultivate their land near the border as they were doing before partition.

(ii) The banks of the Distributary have been strengthened and, where necessary, silt clearance has been done to ensure sufficient supplies at the tail.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Chief Minister has stated in the course of his reply that lands in these villages cannot be irrigated properly due to their being situated near the border. May I know if the Government has provided any facilities to the people of these villages for doing their work ?

†Kept in the Library.

Chief Minister : I have not been able to understand what particular kind of facilities the hon. Member wishes the Government to provide. I can, however, say that proper steps have to be taken to ensure the maintenance of law and order in these areas. This should enable the people of these areas to attend to their work.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Why has the Government taken so long in repairing one distributory? The floods subsided long ago but it will not be possible to supply water to this area for two months more.

Chief Minister : The breach was repaired as soon as earth for that purpose was available.

A. I. C. C. MEETING AT AHMEDABAD.

*2791. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether any of the hon. Ministers went to Ahmedabad during the period 28-1-51 to 2-2-51 to attend the meeting of the All India Congress Committee; if so, the names of such hon. Ministers;

(b) whether any invitation was received by the State Government from the A. I. C. C. to send their representatives;

(c) whether any T. A. or halting allowance has been charged by any of the hon. Ministers for the journey performed in this connection; if so, the amount thereof;

(d) whether any conveyance including Government-owned aeroplanes were availed of for the journey referred to above?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The hon. Chief Minister, because he is a member of the A.I.C.C.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) The hon. Prime Minister was pleased to take him in his plane to Ahmedabad.

TAIL OUTLETS OF TATLA MINOR.

*2792. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the total area under the command of each of the tail outlets of Tatla Minor which respectively irrigate the lands of villages Frandipur and Baler, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar;

(b) (i) the total area actually irrigated by each of the a-foresaid canal outlets during the years 1945-46 1946-47, 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively;

(ii) the area actually irrigated during Kharif 1950;

(c) (i) whether there has been any decrease in the irrigated area after the partition; if so, the reasons therefor;

(ii) the steps Government proposes to take to make up the deficiency in the irrigated areas;

(d) whether any complaints were received by the Executive Engineer, Majitha Division, of the Upper Bari Doab Canal from the zamindars of villages Frandipur and Baler, referred to above on or about 27.11.50 with my note vide my letter No. 1672 dated 25.11.50 and No. 1765 dated 13.12.50 to the effect that there were many damaged outlets on this minor which take more water than their due right at the tail outlets; if so, the action, if any, taken in the matter?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) & (b) (i) & (ii) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table;†

(c) (i) In 1948-49 there was no decrease in irrigation as compared with that before partition. Irrigation in 1949-50 was, however less due to shortage of supplies at the tail of the minor.

(ii) Silt clearance of the minor was once done in 1950 and again it has been done in February 1951 to improve

†Kept in the Library.

supplies at the tail. Detailed Hydraulic Survey of the minor is in hand to locate the causes of shortage at the tail.

(d) Yes. All the outlets on the minor are being examined in detail to remove the defects.

RETURN OF PROPERTY CONFISCATED FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

*2878. **Shri Prabodh Chandra**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has received any representation from S. Ram Singh S/o S. Hakim Singh, village Sahungra, District Hoshiarpur for the return of his property confiscated during 1930-32 for his political activities; if so, the steps, if any, the Government has taken so far in this connection ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

Yes. The matter is under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know from the hon. Chief Minister as to when were these applications for refund of fines received by the Government ?

Chief Minister : I cannot give these details off-hand.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does the hon. Chief Minister remember that a Committee consisting of Sardar Ajit Singh, Parliamentary Secretery, Sardar Piara Singh M L.A. Sardar Harjab Singh Ex-M.L.A. and the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, was set up by the Government for going through these cases and that this Committee has recommended that as the properties of these persons were confiscated on account of their political activities these should be returned to them? What action has the Government taken on that report?

Chief Minister : I am thankful to the hon. Member for the information supplied by him. Unless proper notice for that question is given, I am not in a position to state as to what report was submitted by that Committee and what action the Government has taken on the basis of it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Government proposes to return the property of this gentleman on the basis of the report of that Committee ?

Chief Minister : That is a request for particular action. I shall go through that report and it will be acted upon as far as possible.

REFUND OF FINES TO POLITICAL SUFFERERS IN THE STATE.

*2879. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of political sufferers who have applied for the refund of fines imposed on them during the British regime for their political activities ;

(b) the amounts that have been refunded so far together with the names of persons to whom the refunds have been given ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 256.

(b) A statement containing the desired information is laid on the Table.†

Shri Prabodh Chandra : How many of these applications have been disposed of and how many are still under the consideration of the Government ?

Chief Minister : Full particulars about the applications which have been sanctioned by the Government are given in the statement furnished by me. The remaining applications are under consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : What is the reason that after it has been decided by the Government to refund the fines imposed on account of political activities in more than fifty per cent cases these have not been refunded even when the persons concerned have furnished the requisite proof ? What is the cause of this delay ?

Chief Minister : As I have already stated, when an application for refund of fine is received by the Government, proper enquiry is instituted into the matter and the fine is refunded after completion of the enquiry.

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†Kept in the Library.

NAROT JAIMAL SINGH AND DERA BABA NANAK, DISTRICT GURDASPUR.

*2880. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken bythe Government to save the towns of Narot Jaimal Singh and Dera Baba Nanak, District Gurdaspur from the dangers of floods in futuie ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

To protect the town of Narot Jaimal Singh against the eroding action of Musto Nallah, protection works are proposed to be undertaken and the site of the proposed works has already been surveyed and a model prepared by the Irrigation Branch Hydraulic Officer at Malikpur. Necessary preliminary tests having been carried out, actual execution of the protection works will be taken in hand by the Government when funds are available.

As regards Dera Baba Nanak, breaches in Dhussi Bund, which protects the town from floods, are being repaired and will be set right before the next rainy season.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated that the bund would be constructed when the funds are available. He will perhaps remember that during discussion on the situation created by the floods, the hon. Chief Minister promised that the bund at Narot Jaimal Singh would be constructed before the next rainy season. May I know which of the two statements should be regarded as correct ?

Minister : The steps enumerated in my reply have been taken in implementation of the hon. Chief Minister's promise. Survey has already been made but it is nececsary to approve of the model before the work can be taken up. All this is being done in implementation of that promise.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

EDUCATION.

Minister for Education (The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand) : I beg to move—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,93,25,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of "Education"

Deputy Speaker : Demand moved—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,93,25,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of "Education".

Before I call upon Mehta Ranbir Singh to speak on this Demand, I would like to say a few words to the hon. Member. Th discussion on this Demand for Education will last for two days. (An hon. Member : No, for one day). Yes, for one day. Although I am going beyond my rights to address in this way, yet I beg your pardon for doing so. Just as food is essential for human life, similarly education is essential for the building of the nation. I, therefore, want that instead of fixing any time-limit for the hon. Members, they should themselves try to be as brief as possible so that the maximum number of hon. Members may be able to place their views before the House. Now I call upon Mehta Ranbir Singh to begin his speech.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : I move :

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100-/.

Madam, I have moved this cut motion in order to discuss the policy of the Government with respect to this demand. Madam, there was a time in the history of our country when the motto before the people used to be 'simple living and high thinking'. People from far off countries used to come to India for the purpose of getting education. That was the time when the learned men of this country made it their mission not to earn money but to make selfless efforts for the advancement of learning. Learning was not sold here as has been the case ever since the advent of the British Government in this country. *Vidya Dan* was considered the highest form of charity. But when we became slaves, the British Government, while committing several atrocities on us, introduced great changes in our system of education. First of all they made English the medium of instruction instead of our mother tongue. Consequently, the universities became the strongholds of the vested interests. These vested interests helped the British Government and were in need of this kind of education. They sent their children for education to big colleges. Those persons, after getting that education shared the loot with the British Government. They jointly exploited the people of our country. The British Government followed a policy here which was different from that

which it followed in its own country. The Government in England passed a Bill called the Compulsory Education Bill in 1870. During the period of 50 years, this Bill was amended as many as ten times. But in 1909 the late Gopal Krishan Gokhle introduced a resolution in the Imperial Council which used to be presided over by the Viceroy. Although that resolution was only of recommendatory nature, yet it was talked out. Then, again, a resolution was brought up but again it was defeated. Afterwards, in the days of the Unionist Ministry, a Bill called the Primary Education Bill was passed. A major defect along with other defects, in that Bill was that it applied only to the education of boys. There was no scope in it for the education of girls. Besides this, the jurisdiction of this Bill was also limited. In spite of all these defects, this Bill was instrumental in doing some useful work. Then came independence. If the independence of the country is synonymous with the replacing of the white masters with dark or brown masters, then in that sense we have got independence. But if the freedom of a country is not judged simply by the fact that its Government should be of its own people, then we have not got independence. The real independence of a country means that its Government should work for the improvement of the lot of the people, and not for the betterment of only a few. The freedom of a country means freedom from hunger, freedom from disease and freedom from ignorance. This is the real meaning of freedom. It is from this point of view that I will examine this demand in respect of education. I would see whether the policy of the Government in this matter is that of ending ignorance and illiteracy or that of only benefiting a favoured few.

One important matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members is the state of primary education in the Punjab. It will not be out of place to mention Bombay in this connection, because there also we have a Congress Government. Although throughout India Congress is a conservative party but, as compared with Bombay, our State Government is far behind in the matter of primary education. Here we notice that the machinery of the Government is, in fact, utilized for the personal benefits of a certain number of persons who are in power. With regard to education I would say that the Congress here is not merely a conservative party but a reactionary party. If we compare our expenditure on education with that of Bombay we will notice that there nine and a half crores are spent on education out of a budget of Rupees fifty crores, while in Punjab we are spending only one

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crore and ninety three lakhs. In Bombay steps have been taken to implement the Post-war Development schemes and Post-war Reconstruction programmes, while in Punjab our Government is not doing anything in this respect. We are even losing the grants which the Central Government is prepared to give us on the condition that the State contributes its share towards implementing the Post-war Development plans. But the pity is that the Government of Punjab is not prepared to contribute its share with the result that it is losing whatever amount the Centre is willing to give. As a matter of fact, our Government is not capable of spending on really useful activities. It can spar large sums for Police, General Administration, and the salaries of high officers but whenever the question of spending on the betterment of the State comes it is always found wanting. It does not take full advantage of the offers made so liberally by the Government of India. Another thing which is worth considering is that in other States of India the Congress Governments decided as far back as 1937 in favour of starting basic education in their respective States. They were in this matter inspired by Mahatma Gandhi who, besides teaching us how to meet violence and coercion by non-violence and truth, gave us valuable ideas on the medium of instruction in the early stages of a child's development. Mahatmaji realized the shortcomings from which our system of education suffered. He studied the psychology of the child and in order to lighten the burden from his mind which the present system involved and in order to remove the handicaps from which the poor people in this country suffered in the matter of giving a right type of education to their children on account of cost involved in it, he suggested the useful idea of giving basic education through crafts like spinning and agriculture etc. This novel method has a two-fold object. In the first place, it involves no burden on the minds of the young children. I have seen that children educated on such lines are more happy, intelligent and promising. In the second place, although in the beginning capital expenses are a bit heavier but after two or three years such schools will become self-sufficient Mahatma Gandhi said :

> If the State takes children between seven and fourteen years and trains their bodies and minds through productive labour, public schools must be frauds and teachers idiots if they cannot become self-sufficient.

Of course, I admit that initial expenses are a bit heavy because for agriculture a farm, bullocks and implements etc. are required and

for spinning same articles and tools are needed in the first instance. Moreover, in the beginning the children are also unable to produce anything very useful, but after a lapse of time their productivity increases and they can make the schools self-sufficient. It is my earnest desire that our State Government should try to introduce such reforms as the Congress Governments of other States introduced in the early stages. It is regrettable that all the new schemes of education are lying in cold storage and no action is taken by the Government in this matter. As regards, primary education, we have failed in effecting any improvements in its quality. At this time, when our country is free, we should try to take advantage of the experiences of our neighbouring States. In this matter, the constructive suggestion that I would like to make is that educationists of All-India fame like Dr. Zakir Hussain and Dr. Tara Chand should be consulted and our Government should take full advantage of their experience and ability in the line. One thing which tends to lower our standard of education is that, like our Government, the local bodies are also dabbling in power politics. I won't be wrong if I say that they are even worse victims of this disease. It would, of course, be in the fitness of things to suggest that the Government should exercise a direct control over the schools at present run by the local bodies. As a matter of fact, the Government should take over primary schools because Section 41 of the Constitution clearly lays down that the responsibility for running primary schools lies upon the Government. The section says :—

> The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provisions for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance .. .. etc.

What is the use of having a good Constitution if no steps are taken to put its provisions into actual practice? Mere passing of resolutions and having such provisions is of no use. This august House passed a resolution unanimously for compulsory primary education two years ago but with what result. It is the duty of the State to take steps to implement them. No Government can be tolerated even for a second if it fails to make proper arrangement for education of its children. The Government should realize that the fundamental needs of the people are food, clothing, medical aid, and educational facilities. So, arrangements should be made for all of these.

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

Well, Madam, after making a mention of the tardy efforts of the Government with regard to the dissemination of primary education in the State, I come to the Basic Education. But before I proceed with that I would like to submit that the Education Portfolio is being treated very lightly by the Government of this State. The hon. Members are perhaps aware that after the Montford Reforms this portfolio was considered to be the most coveted one and it was allocated to Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, who, as everybody knows, fully utilised this opportunity to improve the lot of his co-religionists educationally. But what do we find here? No importance is being attached to the Education Portfolio here. It is being thrown like a football from one hon. Minister to the other. Perhaps the portfolio of Civil Supplies Department is considered to be of greater significance than the Education Department. It is so because that portfolio, perhaps, offers greater opportunities for making money than the Education portfolio. Here the greater part of the money goes towards the payment of salaries and, therefore it is less attractive than the former. But I may tell the House that it is this portfolio which has the privilege of building the character of the nation and bringing light of knowledge to the masses. It goes without saying that a sound mind is the pressing need of the body. So if a nation's mind is diseased, its development is bound to be retarded. I, therefore, feel that this portfolio is of vital importance. It is possible that opportunities for making money in this Department may be few and far between, but the fact remains that it offers a wide field for service to the people of the State.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: The importance of this portfolio may be judged from the fact that the hon. Minister for Education holds only one portfolio.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: That is true now, but the difficulty is that no Minister is allowed to hold this portfolio for more than four months. This is what we have experienced during the past. As I have already stated, this portfolio is being thrown like a football from one hon. Minister to the other. But just see what great significance is being attached to this portfolio in the State of Bombay. There the Chief Minister, Shri B. G. Kher, is holding it. Under his able guidance, education has made rapid strides in liquidating illiteracy in that State. If we compare the achievements of the Bombay Government with

those of our Government, we find that the latter lags far behind the former in this respect. You will be surprised to hear that Bombay Government has established no less than three thousand libraries apart from the touring libraries in the State. And in our State not a single touring library exists and the number of regular libraries does not exceed 500 Then, again, if the Bombay Government has opened 10 new Training Colleges we have got only two here. So far as the advancement of female education is concerned, the Bombay Government is far ahead of us. It has opened two new Training Colleges for Girls and intends to start six more such institutions for them. It could not translate its intentions in this connection into action for want of accommodation in the State. But the efforts of the Punjab Govern ment in the field of female education are not very encouraging. There is one Training College for Women here. Now, our Government has been indulging in tall talks about the necessity and importance of Basic Education, but what has it done in this direction? Its efforts in the direction of establishing basic type education schools are not very con mendable. Only four Basic Schools have so far been opened and out of these two are such as have been raised from junior basic schools, particularly in Karnal. Besides, no arrangements by the Education Department exist for conducting refresher courses.

Now I would like to mention the so-called achievements of the Government in the sphere of higher education. There are only 8 Government Colleges for boys and 3 Colleges for girls in the State. But the number of colleges managed by private enterprise is no less than thrice the number of Government institutions. There are about 26 colleges under private management In this connection, I am aware of the fact that a number of premier educational institutions are run by different communities. For instance, D. A. V. Colleges are being managed by the Arya Samajists, Sanatan Dharm Colleges by the Sanatinists and the Khalsa Colleges by the Sikhs. I do not see eye to eye with their communal outlook. Since we believe in a secular State, communalism has no place in our Constitution. But this does not mean that these magnificent institutions should be closed or no help should be given to them by the Government. Such a reorientation should be brought about in the policies of these institutions that they may have a national outlook and thus they may be able to serve the people and the country in a better way. However, what I want to drive at is that despite the fact that the major burden of imparting higher education to the people is being shouldered by the private enterprise and the Government is running only a small

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

number of colleges, yet it is spending a lot on these institutions in comparison to the help which it is extending to the private colleges in the form of grants-in-aid. I submit that if the Government fails to make liberal grants to these private institutions, there is every likelihood of their being closed down for lack of funds, which eventuality, if it takes place, will prove disastrous to the people I think Government would be well-advised to make a provision for increased grants to the existing private colleges, rather than that it should go in for opening new colleges of its own. It is a pity that Government pays no heed to this fact and has decided to establish two new Arts colleges I would have been the first to applaud the action of the Government, if it had decided to start professional or training colleges instead of the Arts colleges which it intends to open and which already abound in this State under private management. I am of the opinion that exigencies of the situation demand that the weak financial position of the private colleges should be improved by the Government and the amount which it has earmarked for the proposed two colleges should be provided to help the financially tottering private colleges.

Then, I would suggest that the admission to the Training institutions of the Government should be made purely on merit. It should be definitely laid down that the least qualification required for admission into these institutions would be a second class degree. This is essential to enable brilliant and deserving candidates to secure admission in the Training Colleges. Since there is a keen demand for trained teachers both in private and government schools and the Department of Education has rightly impressed upon the necessity of having trained staff in the schools, may I know what measures do the Government propose to adopt with a view to meet this demand ? We have got only two training institutions, one for men and one for women. These do not suffice to meet the increased demand for trained teachers. May I suggest that Government should see its way to increase the number of training institution in the State ?

Then, I have to make another important suggestion and that is this. Government should endeavour to make the teaching profession more attractive and lucrative Since teachers are the main builders of the nation, it is necessary that their lot should be so improved that they begin to feel that they occupy an honourable and noble place in the society. Besides this, I submit that the education imparted in Government schools should be made cheap. In this connec-

tion, I may point out that in England the government schools are cheaper than the privately-managed schools

Deputy Speaker : I would request the hon Member to wind up. Since he is a Socialist and believes in even-handed justice being done to all, I would ask him to finish his speech to enable me to give reasonable time to the greatest number of speakers who want to make speeches on this demand.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Point of order, Madam. May I know whether in view of the fact that no time-limit for making speeches has been fixed, the Chair can restrict the speech of an hon. Member?

Deputy Speaker : I think, the hon. Member would not have raised this point of order, if he had heard my appeal which I made to the House before the hon. Member Mehta Ranbir Singh began his speech. I requested the House that I had no mind to place any restriction of time-limit on the speeches but I would expect the hon. Members not to unduly prolong their speeches.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Madam. Since the discussion over the Budget, some of the hon. Members have been given one and a half hours to speak while others have spoken hardly for 10 to 15 minutes. Since one day only has been fixed for education which is a very important subject, I suggest that there should be a time-limit.

Deputy Speaker : It is for the ho Members of the House to decide whether time-limit should be fixed or not. As for myself, I shall be too glad if time-limit is fixed with a view to give an opportunity to those hon. Members who want to speak on the demand, now before the House.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Time-limit should be fixed.

Deputy Speaker : Let the hon. Member finish his speech and it will be decided later on.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I am really constrained to remark that yesterday the hon. Chief Minister, in reply to a supplementary question, whether the films prepared by the Government contained any educative value, said without any hesitation that these films had only the publicity value. Madam, I think you will also subscribe to my view that other States have already started imparting education

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]
through films to the students with a view to improving their knowledge. For instance, the Bombay State is spending thousands of rupees for preparing educational films. This is not all. The Bombay State is paying one-third of the capital expenditure incurred by the privately managed institutions on showing educational films to the students, besides contributing towards running expenses.

Further, we do not find any provision in the Budget for sending teachers abroad for higher studies. On the other hand, we find adequate arrangements being made in the other States for providing facilities to teachers to receive higher education in the foreign countries. Intelligent and efficient teachers are sent abroad to study child psychology in different countries. These teachers are provided with all possible facilities while they are undertraining abroad. Again, in other States teachers are invited from the foreign countries to give necessary training to their teachers as to how students should be taught in different subjects. The next in importance to Primary Education is the Social Education. It is really a matter of deep regret that we do not find any provision for imparting social education to people in our State.

Madam, you know it full well that the future of our country in general, and our State in particular, would be decided in the coming general elections which would be held on the basis of the adult franchise. It is a pity that our Government does not take any steps, whatsoever, to educate the masses. After all, how long are the masses going to remain ignorant for want of educational facilities to them? If the Government continues its weak policy towards education in our State, I am afraid, it will have very bad repercussions on the masses. Under the circumstances, it is high time that the Government devised ways and means to provide adequate facilities with a view to educating the masses.

Now about the University. We have only one University in our State. You know, Madam, that the University Act...... ...

Deputy Speaker: I think the hon. Member wants to say that the University has no building of its own.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Not only that, Madam, but also that it is not functioning properly. Recently, I happened to attend one of the

meetings of the Senate. I was asked by one of my friends to give my opinion about the working of the University and I told him that the conditions obtaining there were worse than those in the Legislative Assembly. I am really constrained to remark that some of the syndics of the University enjoy the hospitality of publishers even in their own homes and here we do not appreciate those hon. Members who stay with the hon. Ministers who are our colleagues. Here I would suggest to the Government to put an effective check on the vested interests so that they may not bring the University into disrepute.

Deputy Speaker: Instead of discussing the University, the hon. Member should give some useful suggestions to the Government.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Madam, if we compare the University Act of this State with that of the other States, we will find that in other States Vice-Chancellors are elected.

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member is not relevant.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Madam, I have arrived at the conclusion that the Government has totally failed in the matter of imparting education to the people of our State. Here I am reminded of a Punjabi saying which aptly applies to the Government :—

कोई हंसे कोई रोवे
सुथरा घोल पतासे पीवे ।

ਕੋਈ ਹੱਸੇ ਕੋਈ ਰੋਵੇ

ਸੁਥਰਾ ਘੋਲ ਪਤਾਸੇ ਪੀਵੇ

There is a couplet in Urdu too which also carries the same sense as the Punjabi saying above :

दरया को उस की मौज की तुगयानयों से क्या काम
किश्ती किसी की पार हो या दरमयान रहे ।

ਦਰੀਆ ਕੋ ਅਪਨੀ ਮੌਜ ਕੀ ਤੁਗ਼ਯਾਨੀਯੋਂ ਸੇ ਕਿਆ ਕਾਮ

ਕਸ਼ਤੀ ਕਿਸੀ ਕੀ ਪਾਰ ਹੋ ਯਾ ਦਰਮਿਯਾਂਨ ਰਹੇ ।

The Government which had taken very heavy responsibilities has totally failed to discharge them. It is a matter of deep regret that the

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]
Members of the Congress Party which is represented here by the Government, instead of making all-out efforts to improve the lot of the masses, have centred all their energies to overthrow the one and help the other to come into power. Instead of solving certain problems of vital importance they make these all the more complicated. This is how the administration is run by the Government which is representing the Congress Party here in this House. It is an open secret that so long as the Government does not prove equal to the task, it cannot win the confidence of the people. It is the duty of the Government to improve the lot of the masses as it is functioning for their benefit and not for a chosen few.

Deputy Speaker: Demand under consideration, motion moved:

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.—

A suggestion was made at the time when Mehta Ranbir Singh was on his legs that a time-limit should be fixed. I quite agree with this suggestion. (Voices: Time limit of five minutes may be fixed). I would like to have the sense of the House as to what should be the time-limit. It would be better if the hon. Members who like to speak would send me slips so that I may be able to call them one by one I also would like to know how the hon. Members would like to fix the time-limit.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Madam, there are seven cut motions and it will thus take 1¾ hours if time-limit of fifteen minutes is fixed. In this way, one hour will be left for the hon. Minister for Education to give his reply. I would also suggest that priority of making speeches should also be given in order of the notices of cut-motions.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: In my opinion, the time-limit should not exceed ten minutes each. We have to offer our suggestions to the Government and not to indulge in making long speeches which can otherwise be made on public platforms.

Shrimati Sita Devi: I propose that a time-limit should range between 15 minutes to 20 minutes for each Member because I feel that one cannot do full justice to the subject of Education within fifteen minutes. I, therefore, suggest that the minimum and maximum limit should be between 15 minutes to 20 minutes. I would, however, request that my hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh should be given 10 minutes as proposed by him.

Deputy Speaker: I think that time-limit should in no case exceed 15 minutes.

Shrimati Sita Devi: (Ex member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*): Madam, sometime ago an eminent doctor of Jullundur went to America. Durign his stay there, he was once invited to dinner by his friend-a renowned scholar of America. I would like to narrate before the House what transpired during the talk at the dinner table between these two gentlemen. The American scholar enquired from the Indian doctor about the conditions prevailing in India and his views about the new Constitution. The doctor from Jullundur replied that the new Constitution of India was on the pattern of American Constitution, and it provided that elections in the country would be held on the basis of adult franchise, that is, every man or woman (who is not a minor) would have the right to vote whether rich or poor, literate or illiterate. "Our Constitution," he said, "also guarntees fundamental rights, that is, it is based on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity". Further, his American friend enquired as to what was the percentage of literacy in India and in reply when he was told that it was only 10 per cent he was taken aback and said if it was so then India has scored no achievement when its people are steeped in ignorance. So India cannot make any progress with a literacy of 10 per cent of the population although it may have a Constitution which gives the right of vote to every adult in this country. With these remarks, I would now like to say something on the demand of Education which is at present before the House. I have with me a beautiful pamphlet entitled "PUNJAB ON THE MARCH" issued by the Public Relations Department Punjab, showing the progress which our State has made in the field of Education I would, therefore, like to discuss this demand on the basis of facts and figures. It will be seen from the Budget that the Government has made a provision of Rs. 1,93,25,600 for Education. This amount is not more than 25% of the total amount to be spent on beneficent departments. Perhaps the hon. Minister for Edncation will, at the time of replying to the debate, take credit by saying that this time the sum provided for education is more than it was provided last year. The Government seems to be under the impression that the Members usually turn over the pages of Budget carelessly and without studying it would shower encomiums upon the Government by listening to the speech of the Finance Minister But I have made a careful study of the Budget and would like to show the details of the sum of Rs. 7½ lakhs which

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

is over and above the last year's Budget. It will be seen that the sum of Rs. 2,40,000 is proposed to be spent on dry milk and a sum of one lakh of rupees is proposed to be spent as honorarium to the authors of books. After the coming of independence, the Government should have an introduced an effective and comprehensive system of education. The system should have been such as imparted a course of instruction which widened the mental horizon of the students. I wonder that a sum of one lakh of rupees has been ear-marked for giving honorarium to the authors of books which is much too excessive. I understand that many corrupt practices are resorted to in getting the books prescribed by the University. A person met me and said that he was prepared to offer a bribe of rupees eight or ten thousand if his books were prescribed as text books. There are also cases in which a person had to spend Rs. 50,000 for getting his books accepted by the Advisory Committee. In fact, the function of the Advisory Committee is that it should frame syllabus and not prescribe text books. But by exercising such authority, they distribute favours blindly among their own men, as the Punjabi couplet goes :—

अन्नाँ वंडे रयड़ियाँ मुड़ मुड़ आपनियाँ नू दे ।

ਅੰਨਾ ਵੰਡੇ ਰਿਉੜੀਆਂ ਮੁੜ ਮੁੜ ਆਪਣਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਦੇ

If the Advisory Committee has to exercise its authority in such a way, then how can it be expected that it would be impartial in its decisions? The members of this Committee have formed a clique and thus make a full use of their authority to extort money from the publishers. This state of affairs is most scandalous. Besides, the Government has ear-marked Rs. 40,000 in the Budget for basic schools. It has also made a provision of seven lakhs for colleges in Muktsar and Tanda Urmar. This amount would have been better spent if it had been given to refugee schools or used for opening primary shools in the State. I am sorry to say that colleges are being opened according to the desire of Ministers to please their constituencies as it will now happen in Tanda Urmar in spite of the demand from people at Dasuya. Government is attaching more importance to the opening of colleges and primary education is being entirely neglected. The time at my disposal is very short and I would, therefore, without going into further details refer to page 4 of the pamphlet entitled 'Punjab on the March' in which it is stated that forty 'District Board Primary Girls' Schools on cent per cent grant basis' were started during 1948-49 in the

State. In the year 1949-50, no primary girls school was opened. But we find that other States are making substantial progress in the field of Education. If we read the speech of the hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, we will find that the Government of that State opened 22,000 primary schools during the year 1948. The need of the hour is thatthe number of primary schools should be increased.

Then, Madam, a sum of Rs. 50 thousand has been set apart for the rehabilitation of displaced Colleges. I wish this amount were utilized for giving rehabilitation grants to displaced schools rather than Colleges, for then it would serve public interest better. There are so many schools which have neither the buildings nor the funds to start their career again It is a pity that our Government is more solicitous towards the Colleges which serve no other purpose than adding to the number of the educated unemployed persons. What is the use of turning out graduates by the thousand, who are not even able to get a job of Rs. 60 p. m.? Under the present system of education, it is no use adding to the number of Colleges or in other words clerk-producing factories.

There is another matter, Madam, to which I want to draw your attention. I am surprised to note that nepotism is affecting even such matters as the opening of new Colleges, which are being opened not where they are needed most, not where there is a great public demand for them, but at places which are situated in the would-be-constituencies of the hon. Ministers. There is a place called Tanda-Urmar not very far from either Jullundur or Hoshiarpur, both of which are educational centres. Now, our Government has decided to open one of the new Colleges there ignoring the claim of Dasuya in spite of the fact that within the area of this tehsil there are as many as twenty High Schools. But Tanda-Urmar has one distinction. In the coming elections, an hon. Minister proposes to make it his constituency and so it was conidered necessary to please the people of that town by opening a Degree College there. Last year, a College was opened at Simla even though a College was already functioning here. The Government sanctioned it without giving much thought to the matter because it was proposed to name it after Dr. Bhargava. Then a College was opened at [illegible]iss because some hon. Ministers hailed from that district. And I would

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

not be surprised if the Government now decides to open another College in Kangra District since our new Education Minister hails from there. (*Laughter*). I feel, Madam that all this is sheer waste of the money allocated to education! It would have been much better if, instead of opening Arts Colleges, this money had been spent on opening Professional institutions Even now, I would urge the Government to give up the idea of opening more Arts Colleges and earmark the money for opening a Dental College about the need of which there can hardly be two opinions. Ever since the partition, the displaced staff of the Dental College, functioning at Lahore, has been making representations to the Government to start a similar institution in this State, but to no purpose. The reply of the Government, as usual, that the mater is under consideration. It is our good fortune that such highly qualified persons and specialists have not yet decided to migrate to other provinces. It is time the Government started a Dental College and allowed the people to avail of their services.

Then, Madam, I have failed to comprehend the reason why a sum of Rs 24,450 has been earmarked for giving scholarships to European boys and girls. I wonder where are those European schools to the students of which it is proposed to grant scholarships.

Then, Madam, a sum of Rs. 2,100 only has been provided for the encouragement of the study of medicine for girls. This amount is extremely inadequate for this purpose, who can deny that our country needs the services of more and more lady doctors, nurses and trained midwives. Then there are so many widows among those who have come from West Punjab and who are eager to become nurses and mis-wives. The Government should have kept these facts in view and provided more money for this purpose.

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Lady Member should now wind up. She has already taken more time.

Shrimati Sita Devi: All right, Madam, I stop here since you can't give me more time

Deputy Speaker: I think, I have got names of only three Members who are desirous of speaking to-day.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: On a point of Order, Madam. I request you not to ignore the fact that those Members who have given noticed of cut motions have also got the right to have an opportunity to speak even though they have not sent their names to you.

Deputy Speaker: I have no hesitation in admitting my mistakes due to lack of information about the rules. So I hope the hon. Member will excuse me for not taking the movers of cut motions into consideration but there will be no harm if they send their names to me all the same.

Shri Virendra: (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing West Division, Multan, General, Rural) (*Hindi*). Madam, some pamphlets were distributed by the Government among the hon. Members a few days ago. These pamphlets are untitled "Punjab

on the March" and contain particulars of the work done by the different departments of the Government. They are particularly noteworthy for the progress that has been made by the departments during the last three or four years. After a careful study of these pamphlets, I am in a position to say that the work done by our Education Department far excels the work that has been done by any other department of the Government. We all very well remember the conditions we found ourselves in when we came from the West Punjab after partition and we also come across a brief account of those times in these pamphlets. When we come to this newly-formed State, we were without a University and we were without any arrangements by way of schools and colleges for imparting education to our children. Those were very difficult times indeed. But thanks to our Education Department that so many new schools and colleges have sprung up in such a short time and I can say without any fear of contradiction, that no Government could have done better so far as the establishment and development of the Educational institutions is concerned. This work of the Education Department becomes all the more worthy of praise when we bear in mind all the difficulties that this Department had to undergo due to the abnormality of the times. We can in no case overlook the fact that ours is a deficit State and our financial difficulties have been and still are a great obstacle in the way of our progress. But in spite of financial and other difficulties this Department has been able to place before us a wonderful record of its work. When I have so much praise and admiration for this Department, I also wish to place before this august House some of its draw-backs that have come to my notice. The first thing that I wish to bring to the notice of the House is this that this Department lacks proper planning. On reading the pamphlet concerning this Department, I find that this Government has decided to set up more colleges, schools, basic schools and some other similar institutions but I regret to say that this work of the Government is not likely to stand us in good stead any longer. This work is not likely to solve our problems. There was justification for these arts schools and colleges when India was not free and large numbers of clerks and "babus" were needed by the Government for purposes of administration but now times have altogether changed and the country needs the services of technicians and specialists in addition to clerks and "babus". We now stand

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in need of the services of such young men who can promote the cause of agriculture and industry in our State We cannot for a moment afford to emulate the example of the Britishers who imparted a particular kind of education to our young men to serve their own ends. The Englishman needed clerks and 'babus'' and so he set up a large number of arts schools and colleges. Now, as I have already remarked, due to the change of times the needs of the present Government are much different from those of the foreign Government. We do not want only clerks, we want people who can help in making the country prosperous by developing our agriculture and industry. When this is the case, I think no useful purpose would be served by opening new arts colleges and schools. Instead of opening new arts colleges, I would suggest that we should set up such colleges where our young men can get education in agriculture, industry and other sciences. Our State being an agricultural State, particularly stands in need of such colleges where our young men are enabled to receive advanced training in agriculture. I can assure the House that our people are capable of doing miracles if proper training is given to them. Everyone knows that our hardy people, by dint of their hard work, have transformed this backward, deficit and mutilated State into a surplus State so far as food is concerned. Why should we not help them in doing more for us ? But this can be done not by opening more arts colleges, but by opening colleges which impart technical education to our young men. Uufortunately, this pamphlet which is here before me does not contain any scheme according to which such arrangements could be made. It only says that arrangements would be made for setting up new arts colleges and schools. These schools and colleges will surely not equip our young men properly for the struggle of life and they wil be going about in search of clerical jobs after having spent long periods of time in educational institutions The fact will not be gainsaid that our young men do not know what to do even after passing the B A., M.A., or the Ph D. examinations. They spend so much time and money on their education but are not in a position to secure good jobs. I have great sympathy for such men and women and wish that technical colleges could be set up for their benefit. In these circumstances, I would go to the extent of suggesting that for sometime at any rate no arts schools and colleges should be opened in the State and the amount thus saved be utilized for setablishing Science Colleges. Anyway, the Government should not

spend any more on the production of clerks. If there are some private committees who desire to start some arts colleges and schools they may be allowed to please themselves. We must save Government funds for better purposes.

The second thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is this that loans which were advanced to the stu ents after the partition of the province should not be recovered in deserving cases. I le..rn that sometime back an attempt was made by the Education Department to recover these loans from all students. Such a step on the part of the Government is sure to entail great hardships in the case of those students whose parents are not in a position to pay back the loan. And then it is also not possible for the students to pay back the loan themselves immediately after they leave their studies. In case they are pressed to pay the loan under all circumstances they are not likely to make a proper start in life and this is what nobody would desire. Therefore, I think the Government will take steps to accommodate deserving cases.

The third thing relates to the teachers of the local bodies and particularly to the teachers of the District Boards. In the Budget, we find that quite a large sum of money has been provided for the teachers of the District Boards but the teachers of the District Boards and even of the Municipal Boards always complain that they do not get full salaries and at the proper time.

As you know, Madam, these local bodies' teachers are paid very low salaries. Most of them get fifty or sixty rupees per mensem only. They have to feed their families, clothe them properly, educate their children and also need houses to live in. How can they do all these things with their small salaries? In these days it is very difficult for a person to make his both ends meet with ninety or even hundred rupees per mensem. In spite of various efforts of the Government and agitation in the Press, I know that some local boards do not pay full salaries to their teachers in time. Instead of leaving these poor people at the mercy of local bodies, the Government should take more effective steps in this matter. When the Government finds that some local body has failed to pay its teachers in time, it should take over the education in its own hands. When this suggestion was made on a previous occasion, it was said on behalf of the Government that taking of such steps would be construed as interference with the rights of Local Self-Government. This argument could have

[Shri Virendra]
some meaning when we were ruled by foreigners and our destinies were controlled by them. After the attainment of independence, when we have to decide our affairs ourselves, it is for us to decide our policy in educational as well as other matters, and this argument does not hold ground. It is our duty to see that we take those steps which result in the proper education of children. If the District Boards or other local bodies have made satisfactory arrangements for the education of children, we should not interfere with them, but in those cases, where they have failed to do so, the Government should not hesitate in taking over this mather into their own hands. It is the duty of the Government to interfere in the case of those local bodies, whose teachers are sufferring hardships. It should try to remove their difficulties.

Then, Madam, I wish to say a few words with regard to the privately-managed institutions. I shall ask the Government to adopt more liberal policy in respect to these. At present most of the work for education in this State is being done by these institutions. The managing bodies of these institutions complain that the Government is not sympathetic towards them If the Government gives proper encouragement to the privately-managed schools and colleges, its task in the sphere of education will becom lighter. Before you ask me to resume my seat, Madam, I wish to say...

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member has ample time yet. He should look at the clock.

Shri Virendra : Either I can address you or look at the clock. I shall prefer to look towards and address you. I was submitting that if we want to see our State make progress and wish to prepare our youngmen for struggle of life, we should see that arrangemens for education are satisfactory. I am glad that the Government has set up an Advisory Board for Education and that Board has decided to introduce a new system of education. If that new system is properly followed, I hope that it will meet with success and it will lead to progress in the State, but at the same time I wish to point out that the need of the day is not for more Arts Colleges ; we require Agricultural Colleges, Industrial Colleges and Medical Colleges. Instead of wandering in search of jobs carrying salary of fifty or sixty rupees per mensem, our youngmen after receiving education should be in a position to bring up their families and discharge their

obligations respectably. If the Government decides to act on these lines, I am sure that our State will have made immense progress before long

Shri Behari Lal Chanana (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly, representing South East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, the hon. Member who spoke just before me drew the attention of the Government to the fact that instead of opening more Arts Colleges in the State, the Government should start Agricultural, Industrial or Medical Colleges In this connection, I beg to submit that first of all we should rationalize the existing system of education. To achieve this object, instead of providing separate amounts for agricultural education, Industrial education and medical education, all the money should be placed under one head. The child should know from the very beginning about the type of education which he has to receive. If all the sections are placed under one head it will avoid multiplicity and will lead to better efficiency. It will lead to proper co-ordination and the extent to which a student has to be given a particular kind of education will be known. So my first suggestion is that the different sections of education should be placed under the same head.

The other thing which I wish to submit is, that if it is not proposed to encourage the opening of more Arts Colleges, the existing colleges at least should be given maximum aid. The conditions, however, are different. Circular No. 4391-c dated the 12th February, 1951 is in my hands. It reveals that the sum of about Rs. 2,80,000 which was given to different colleges in the form of grants, has been distributed on the basis of annual deficits shown by those colleges. If a particular college had a larger deficit, it was given more money. For instance a new institution like G.N.M. College, Ambala Cantt. was given Rs. 24,124 and the newly started Bhargava Municipal College, Simla, got Rs. 17,496. As against these sums, the S. D. College, Simla was given only Rs. 3,693. It has been punished on account of its being an old institution.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : They had to suffer for not preparing false accounts.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana : My suggestion has nothing to do with that.

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

The principle which is now being followed by the Government clearly shows that it encourages the newly started arts colleges but why do this at the cost of old institutions? In this way, the old institutions will not be able to make any progress. Secondly I want to submit that in the United Punjab, the private institutions used to make a great contribution in the matter of education in the Province. Two big institutions of this kind were the S. D. College and the Khalsa College. I am glad that the grant to the Khalsa College has been continued and for this I am grateful to the Government. But I fail to understand why this grant is not being given to the S. D. College. I have recently come to know that this college has also received a grant of Rs. 20 lakhs. This is commendable. But I want to know whether this grant is recurring or non-recurring. If this grant is recurring, the Government has really taken a step towards removing the injustice that has so far been done to that college. But if this grant is non recurring, it is not good. The discrimination in the case of the S. D. College, Simla, is unfair. I am glad that other institutions are being helped. But I want to know why Sanatan Dharam institutions are being discriminated against in this matter. With these words, I place these suggestions of mine before the Government for their consideration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. I want your ruling on the point whether it is obligatory for the Chair or not to give time to the hon. Members who have given notices of cut motions?

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member has thrice raised this point. I have already replied to it. The fact is that it is in his nature to raise such points and he cannot help it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I protest against your insinuation. Madam, you should know that you are here to protect the rights of the Members. Just as it is the duty of the Members to obey your orders, similarly it is your duty not to make reflections on the Members. I have twice asked you whether it is obligatory for the Chair or not to give an opportunity to Members who have given notices of cut motions to speak first, but you have not replied to this question even once.

Deputy Speaker : It has never been my intention to make any insinuation and I assure the hon. Member that I shall never do that. I only made a request to the House that if I got the names of the intending speakers, I would try to accommodate the maximum number of the hon. Members.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : My point of order is whether the Members who have given notices of cut motions will be given time to speak or not.

Deputy Speaker : If I must perform this unpleasant duty of mine, I have to say that it is not obligatory that the hon. Members who have given notices of cut motions should get time to speak first.

Thakur Dalip Singh : (Kangra South, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, only the other day, Shri Mavalankar the hon. Speaker of our Parliament, while speaking at a meeting, remarked that education is next to food in importance. I want to know whether our Government is actually acting upon this maxim or not. I want to submit that education is a necessary thing for the nation and the Government should take it in that light. Besides this, our country is now free and it has also framed its own Constitution. It has been provided in that Constitution that every child of the age of 14 years will be compulsorily educated. I want to see whether our Government has taken any step in this direction or not. But I am sorry to say that no such step has been taken by our Government so far. No new provision has been made in this Budget for the Primary or Secondary education in our State. I admit that provision has been made for opening new colleges. But no attention has been paid to the other side I want to submit that our Government should provide maximum funds for the purpose of imparting Primary and Secondary education. Next, Madam, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Members and the Government, through you, to the system of education that is practised in our State. Day in and day out, our hon. Ministers as well as other national leaders have been saying in their speeches that our system of education is wrong and due to this reason our country has not been able to make any progress. But I am sorry to say that the Government has not taken any step to change this system so far. Even uptil now our children are being taught the stories of Tota and Maina and there is no change in the system of education. If we are really serious to bring about a revolution in our State in the matter of education, we shall have to introduce a new system of education.

The second thing to which I want to draw your attention is that the education at present is becoming very costly. The poor people cannot afford to give this education to their children. It has become a close preserve of the rich only. The poor people cannot afford to

[Thakur Dalip Singh]

send their children to schools and colleges They cannot support them beyond the eighth class even. Yet our Government says that it will give free education to the children The tuition fees have become exorbitant and the prices of books have also gone very high. Under these circumstances, only the children of the rich people can get education. Then there is the question of primary, lower middle and middle school. Our experience has shown that this gradation of these schools is not to the advantage of the students. A stud nt who passes sixth class from a lower middle school has to join an English school in the fifth class. In this way, a good deal of the time of the students is wasted for nothing. About two years back, there was a scheme that the lower middle schools would be abolished and the primary education should be extended over five years. But now we do not hear of this scheme.

These are some of the important things to which the hon. Members should devote their attention. It is said that now when an hon. Member from Kangra has been taken in the Cabinet, colleges and schools will be opened in that district. I think this is only a wishful thinking and, in fact, it won't materialize. It is not colleges that we need in that backward part of the State but primary schools so that literacy may be spread among the masses. Moreover, we stand in need of girls' education also, because at present it is neglected. We have practically no girl ' schools in Kangra. It will not be out of place to mention here that the decision to have a college and a middle School at Tanda should be so changed as to give one of these to Haripore. In view of the backwardness of our district what is needed is increased attention towards girls' education. It is the duty of the Government to start new schools and colleges especially in such backward areas. There is one thing more which the hon Members should take note of. In the new expenditure a provision has been made for the young Farmers Clubs in the State involving an expenditure of rupees sixty thousand. The objects of starting such clubs appear, on the face of them, to be laudable. They are :

(i) To create fellow feelings and brotherhood among the village masses.

(ii) The indoor and outdoor activities.

(iii) Libraries, newspapers and educational magazines, etc.

(iv) Training for Grow More Food and cottage industries.

(v) Dehat Sudhar,

(iv) Social Education.

My submission is that the aims and objects of this institution appear to be attractive. But so far we have not seen anything practical about it. If it is a really useful institution steps should be taken to extend its scope of activities to such backward districts as Kangra. There people have not heard even the name of such clubs.

Sardar Bachan Singh : There is nothing strange about it. Even the railways are not heard of in backward districts of our country.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Of course, our district is backward in all respects. But that is all the more reason for our Government to open schools and clubs there. We often hear of backward classes and talk of giving privileges and facilities to them. I wish to inform the hon. Ministers that there are some such backward districts also which require special help and attention. But unfortunately our Education Department is not paying much attention to Kangra.

Shrimati Sita Devi : But now you have your own Education Minister.

Thakur Dalip Singh : Yes, but even then, I think, our district will remain backward as before. Anyhow, we may still hope that our new hon. Minister will achieve something useful for the district. With these words, I resume my seat.

Pandit Jiwan Lall (South West Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, with your permission I wish to place my ideas on education before the hon. Ministers and the hon. Members of this House. In my opinion, the present system of education in our State is not based upon any code of morality or character building. The result is that the students even after doing B. A. or M. A. do not develop any higher qualities of character and righteouness. This is the main cause why there exist corruption and such other evils among the officers who are recruited from among the students turned out by our schools and colleges. It is my submission that bribery, corruption and dishonesty can exit only under a system of education which pays no attention to morality or character building. In order to develop such qualities right type of education is the primary need and I earnestly wish that the Government should take steps in the right direction. The old and rotten system should be changed because under it no lessons in morals are imparted Of course, there are some good teachers here and there. But on the whole the system is defective and most of the teachers are

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not fit for giving a right type of education. Unless the teachers are good the students will not gain what is required to make them good citizens. But it is regrettable that at present most of the teachers are not of the right type. Some of them are addicted to wine, opium, smoking and such other evil habits. The Government should take steps to see that such persons are neither selected in future nor retained in the jobs they hold in the Education Department at present if they do not give up these habits. The Government should take action against those who do not live up to the standards required of them. It is deplorable that even in trifle matters the teachers do not live a life of truth and honesty. Sometimes it is noted that in marking attendances seventy seven students are marked present while actually there are only twenty five students. The Department should take a serious view of such irregularities because they go to reflect the character of the teacher and cast an evil influence on the tender minds of the students. It should be seen that only true figures are written in the papers whatever the consequences. Action should be taken against the defaulters. Another thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is that at present no steps are taken to educate the teachers in the principles of social uplift. I suggest that camps should be opened for two or three months in which the teachers may get training in such principles. I wonder why a group of about four or five hundred students and some teachers are unable to work for their own uplift. Can't they themselves keep their ground and their surroundings clean without the help of others? Why should they depend on others? As a matter of fact they should learn to love labour and should not shirk work. It is only by inculcating a spirit of service and social work that they can achieve any progress.

I, therefore, suggest that the amount of money sanctioned for the purpose of keeping the schools clean and in a sanitary condition should be stopped forthwith. Government should issue instructions to the teachers to get the help of students in this matter. The boys should be made to do this work in a spirit of co-operation and self-help.

Then, Madam, the schools for girls in the rural areas are conspicous by their absence. If you care to go into villages, you will not find even a trace of girl's school for miles together. The reason is that the Department of Education has paid no attention to the dissemination of female education in the rural areas. I would request

the Government to take early steps for opening schools for girls in the villages. I am firmly of the opinion that an educated girl can become a better mother than an illiterate one, and the former can make her children more patriotic and national-minded than the latter, I, therefore, feel that Government should spend liberally on the female education. Such books should be prescribed and such a curriculum prepared for them, as would make them strong in character and inculcate in them the husband worship (Pati Barat Dharma).

Now I come to the question of salaries of the teachers. I suggest that they should be paid such salaries as would enable them to lead a contented life. They are unable to make their both ends meet with the present grade of salaries. The difficulties of teachers in rural areas do not stop here. The District Boards have burdened them with various taxes. They complain that when it is not possible for them to support and feed their families with the present scanty salaries, how can they afford to pay these taxes. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government to come to the rescue of the rural teachers and direct the District Boards not to levy any tax on them. Besides, I would request the Government to make the teaching profession more honourable and attractive, because it is the teachers who are responsible for building the character of our children.

Then there is another difficulty which I want to bring to the notice of the Government. The Department of Education has made the construction of pucca buildings a condition precedent to the opening of any school in the rural areas. I think that this condition should be relaxed by it. The Department should be satisfied with any hutted or thatched accommodation, of course, suitable from hygienic and sanitary point of view, for the purpose of establishing new primary schools for imparting education to the children. I strongly urge upon the Government that arrangements should be made to open as many schools in the rural areas as it is possible so that the illiteracy into which our villagers are steeped, should be liquidated soon.

Then there is another point to which I invite the attention of the Government. The Department of Education has appointed social workers at various places and among them services of a large number of teachers have been requisitioned. These teachers have no heart to do social work and they feel like going back to their substantive posts. I am of the opinion that they should be

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sent back to their original posts, because they cannot render any social service. I think that only that person can do any social work who does not make a fetish of dignity, or in other words who realises the dignity of labour.

Besides, our State lacks Physical Training College. It is most essential for the welfare of our children. I think a State can prosper only if its nationals are physically fit. But this is possible if we inculcate the love of paysical excercise during the childhood of men. I may submit in this connection that only the other day when athletes of several Asian Nations assembled at Delhi and showed their feats. I felt that our Government should take steps to make our children emulate the Asian athletes. This is possible if the Government establishes a physical training college and produces instructors who should give instruction in physical training to the school children. I assure the Government that if it takes steps to open such a college, I can collect as much money as it required for this purpose. In this connection I may point out that apart from this, if the Government is prepared to establish some industrial school in our ilaqa, the people would be glad to contribute funds for that. Government should undertake the responsibility of running it and I assure it that I will provide fifty thousand repees by collection from the public.

Then I find that in schools arrangements for seating the children are very faulty. Benches and stools are found lacking. I request that Government should extend special help for the provision of stools and benches for the children. Besides this, I suggest that in boarding houses, the students should be provided wooden cots (takhats) instead of charpais. On the one hand the students will be saved from the bugs nuisance and on the other they will feel physically better.

Then, Madam, there are about 1,25,000 Muslims living in the District of Gurgaon. No arrangements worth the name exist for their education They are most backward people. The very sight of a well dressed person makes them frightened, be ause they feel that some officer has come to visit their village. I request that Government should take steps to open schools for imparting education to these Muslims.

Then, there is no high school for girls in the Gurgaon District. It is a pity that a headquarter of a district like that of Gurgaon should be without an institution for imparting education to the girls. Not only this. There is no college in the Gurgaon District. I would request the Government to see that before long a Goverument College and a Government High School for Girls are established. There is a pressing need for both these institutions in the district headquarters of Gurgaon. With these words I resume my seat.

Chaudhari Lahri Singh : (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I feel that this Government is not going to accomplish anything remarkable during its life-time. The month of November is not far off and the Ministers as well as the hon. Members will be all busy with electioneering campaigns. I think the general elections will prove a hard test for all the member of the Government, because the electorate will ask as to what they had done for the betterment of the people. I have no mind to dilate on this subject. I would, however, like to make a few suggestions in respect of the demand under consideration. I submit that Government should not open any more high schools or colleges, if it has not sufficient funds to finance them. But they should devote their attention to the establishment of those institutions which are needed most You are perhaps aware, Madam, that generally the arrangements for boarding houses for girls do not exist in a satisfactory manner. The result is that in the rural areas, where girls have passed their fourth primary examination, they cannot join Middle or High Schools away from their villages on account of lack of satisfactory boarding and lodging arrangements for girls. I would therefore, request the Government to see that necessary boarding houses are provided to the Girls High Schools, so that girl students from rural areas, who want to prosecute their studies further, should not be put to unnecessary trouble.

Then I would like to bring to the notice of the Government another difficulty, which is being experienced by the Girls High School at Rohtak. I can say from my personal knowledge that the school is acutely suffering from lack of satisfactory supply of water. Time and again it has been represented to the hon. Minister-in-charge, particularly when he is on tour in Rohtak, that the grievances of the school regarding water should be redressed, but so far no action has been taken to remove this difficulty. The matter does not stop here. Since there is on

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boarding house attached to the school, the girl students from muffasil are put to a great trouble They have to experience great hardship for want of satisfactory accommodation. I would appeal to the Government to make a provision for the construction of a good boarding house for this Girls School and arrange for the supply of drinking water. Government will thus be the recipient of the blessings and good wishes of the parents of the girls, as it will become convenient for the latter to receive higher secondary education. The other point towards which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is that there is no girls college in the whole of the Ambala Division. Our Government which did not hesitate to open colleges in Hissar and Muktsar, did not care to open a girls college in any part of the Ambala Division.

Further, in the college of Rohtak, Gurgoan, Karnal and Hissar, where we find boarding houses for boys, no such boarding house exists for girls. It goes without saying that the businessmen, pleaders and other rich people can well afford to send their daughters to their relatives and they do not feel any necessity of a boarding house for them. Poor parents find it will-nigh impossible to give any education to their daughters in the absence of any boarding house May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has ever thoughtof taking any steps in this connection ? It is therefore high time that adequate arrangements are made for providing boarding houses for girl students. The girl students have already submitted representations to the Government to the effect that they are prepared to continue their studies in the colleges with boys but they are very much handicapped for want of seperate accomodation for them. There is no boarding house attached to any college in the whole of the Ambala Division. On the one hand our Government expresses its inability to arrange for seperate boarding houses for the girls for want of finances, and on the other we find large sums being spent on opening colleges in Hissar and Muktsar. I realy fail to understand the reason why so much money has been spent unnecessarily in opening colleges in Hissar, Rohtak and Muktsar when these places are not situated at a far off distance from each other. For instance, there is not much distance between Rohtak and Hissar. Similarly Muktsar is not situated at a far off distance from Hissar. There is no doubt that the people belonging to the urban areas can afford to give any type of education to their boys as they like and our Government is alsou to

to provide them with all the facilities. On the contrary, no steps whatsoever have been taken by the Government to afford adequate educational facilities to the people of the rural areas who constitute 90 per cent population of the State. I once again take the opportunity of inviting the attention of the hon. Minister-in charge to pay special attention towards the much-needed requirements of the people belonging to the rural areas and thus make suitable arrangements for providing educational facilities to them particularly in opening a girls college in any part of the Ambala Division which is the crying need of the hour. It is really high time that people in the rural areas are afforded all possible facilities to educate their children Instructions should be issued to all the district boards to open as many basic schools as possible for educating the people of 'Bar-Dihat'.

Deputy Speaker : What does the hon. Member mean by 'Bar-Dihat' ?

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Madam, I am requesting the Government to afford educational facilities to the ruralites whose sons are defending the Kashmir Frontier, whose sons are helping the Government in maintaining Law and Order in the State, whose sons are working as coolies in different parts of the State and, again, whose sons are helping our country in general and our State in particular in the food production drive. I am not talking about the urbanites who can manage to earn their levelihood as there is always much scope for them in the urban areas. I have no hesitation in saying this that the people of the rural areas, who constitute 90% of the total population of the State, are denied all facilities particularly in the matter of education. If anything goes wrong with the people living even in the removed corners of Simla or Delhi, all the leading newspapers do not hesitate to flash out the news about the happening and also the action taken by the authorities to set the matters right. But if any such thing happens in the rural areas nobody would listen to the cries of the people what to speak of providing them with any amenities of life whatsoever. Here I would like to sound a note of warning to the Government that if they fail to take timely action in the matter of educating the rural masses, they will themselves be inviting Communism or Socialism It goes without saying that education enlightens persons and he who is not educated has really no place in the society of the present day world.

Madam, if you had not been educated, you would not have been here amongst us and perhaps you may not have been elected

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to adore the Chair as you are doing today. In fact it is the education which has stood you in good stead and today we find you adoring the Chair here in this House Again, if the hon. Ministers had not been educated, I am sure we would not have found them adoring the Treasury Benches. (Noise) If educational facilities are not afforded to the ruralites, I am afraid, we may have to meet the same fate as has befallen China and the conditions would worsen day by day.

Sardar Rattan Singh (Ferozepore North, Sikh, Rural) *(Punjabi)* : Madam, I have no intention to take much of your time. As a matter of fact I have not to say anything in detail about the demand, now before the House except that communalism is rampant in the Education Department. I have a cutting from the Daily Ajit of 20th December, 1950, in my possession in which we find in detail how grave injustice has been done to the Sikhs by the Hindu officials of this department At this stage I will refer to certain salient points as have appeared in the newspaper as to how the claims of the Sikhs have been totally ignored. Last year 17 posts of the Head Masters of High Schools fell vacant and all these posts were to be filled from amongst Hindus and Sikhs. Madam, you will be surprised to learn that all these posts were filled from amongst the Hindus and the claims of the Sikhs were ignored altogether. Two Sikhs were appointed as Head Masters of the Middle Schools with a view to satisfy the Sikhs. This is how the claims of the Sikhs are being ignored in this department. This is not all. Last year when 9 Sikh Head Masters retired from Government Service, no Sikh was appointed on any of these posts and all these posts were instead filled from amongst the Hindus.

Deputy Speaker : Please leave these things and give some constructive suggestions. By talking such things communalism prevails.

Sardar Rattan Singh : Madam, what I wish to bring to your notice is that communalism in the Education Department is the order of the day. You will also note that before the partition when the number of Government Schools on this side of the Punjab was 38, the number of Sikh Head Masters was 17. Now that the number of these schools has shot up to 47, the number of Sikh Head Masters has been reduced to 11. This is how grave injustice has been done to the Sikhs. Madam, you will subscribe to my view when I say

that the Education Department, which has to perform sacred functions, should not smack of communalism. With these words, I request the hon. Chief Minister to pay his due attention to my submissions.

Chaudhri Sundar Lall: (Karnal North, General, Rural) Reserved Seat) (*Hindi*) :—Madam, I rise to say a few things with regard to the demand, now before the House. It is really a matter of deep regret that all the primary schools in the Distri.t of Karnal have been closed by the District Boards. There is no Girls High School in Karnal. I would request the Government to make provision for a Girls High School in Karnal, as this is the crying need of he hour. There is also no High School in Radaur. I hope Government will not hesitate to make provision for opening a High School for the benefit of the people living there.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I am very much thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the demand, now before the House. When I saw the pamphlet on Education, which has been supplied by the Government, I was reminded of the following couplet which is truly applicable to this case :—

देने वाले क्या दिया तू ने मुझे

मुफ़लिसी इफ़लास और शाहाना दिल।

ਦੇਨੇ ਵਾਲੇ ਕਿਆ ਦੀਆ ਤੂ ਨੇ ਮੁਝ

ਮੁਫਲਸੀ ਇਫਲਾਸ ਔਰ ਸ਼ਾਹਾਨਾ ਦਿਲ

this pamphlet as such is very beauti ul to look at, but when I turned the pages and went through it, I arrived at the conclusion that the subject matter given in it is nothing but a big joke.

Madam, on seeing these beautifully printed pamphlets entitled 'Punjab on the March' issued by the Public Relations Department I thought that much can be said on this demand by way of criticism but since you have fixed the time-limit of ten minutes all those ideas have vanished away from my memory. I will now confine myself only to making a few observations on this demand. The progress of any country can be rightly judged by the literacy of its people and not by its large bank balances. We have to see how many people are educated in the real sense of the word. We achieved our Independence

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about four years ago but I am sorry to say that our Government is still moving in the same old grooves. Lord Macaulay wanted to introduce such system of education which would only make a young man fit for petty clerkship with a little knowledge of English. He wanted that by birth we should be Indians but should ape the British dress, manners, accent and the way of living. In other words he wanted that we should become the blotting sheets of Westerners. I am sorry to say that not an iota of change has been brought about in the old policy of the Government of Edncation. It has not realised that education which suited slave India is out of place in free India. Now is the need for opening new schools for imparting education to the boys but our Government always fights shy of investing money for the spread of education under the common plea of inadequacy of finances. My hon. Friends who are occupying Ministerial Benches hold the view that spacious buildings are required for imparting education to the people of the State. These buildings, according to them, cannot be constructed without ample funds. I would in this connection quote a line which is truly applicable to the present case :—

अपने तारीक मकानों को तो देखा होगा

ਅਪਨੇ ਤਾਰੀਕ ਮਕਾਨੋਂ ਕੋ ਤੋ ਦੇਖਾ ਹੋਗਾ ।

I am sorry to remark that our officers and the officers of the British regime always have had a narrow outlook and have been keeping in view the mode of working of the Government which they have witnessed during the last five years or so. They only realize that the greatness of a college or school is judged from the grandeur of its buildings and not by the mental and moral heights of its alumni. They fail to think of ancient India when the student studied on the grassy lawns, under the shade of the trees while overhead the sky provided the beautiful blue canopy. If we continue to think that unless we have enormous funds at our disposal we cannot build educational institutions, then we will not be able to raise the educational level of our country. If we look towards the advanced countries like Russia and Italy we will find that they have made rapid advance in the sphere of educational reconstruction. Mussolini made concrete educational planning and set up educational machinery for raising the lot of the masses He recognised it a great problem and thus opened a school in every village without caring a whit whether it functioned in a good building or even under the shade of a tree. It

is the result of these steps that Italy is today far advanced educationally. But what we find here is that our State is educationally very much backward. Our people are in a state of misery and ignorance. With a percentage of literacy not going above 10 per cent we are almost groping in the dark. Our leaders have not realized the greatness of the task. Sometime back our Government declared its policy of opening primary schools in villages within a radius of five miles. But in reply to my question I got the information from the hon. Chief Minister that the Government had only opened 10 primary schools in the State. It clearly shows that the Government is only tinkering with this problem with a view to avoid it. It is a matter of common knowledge that primary schools are opened in those ilaqas, which have their representatives in the district boards. But unfortunately, those ilaqas remain neglected for ever which have no voice in the district boards. I would now draw the attentien of the hon. Minister for Education to the fact that this depratment has gained notoriety for its malpractices. I would refer to a case of one B. S. Shroff, a Professor in the Government College. He was suspended by the authorities during the pre-partitioned days His only fault was that he did not dance to the tune of his officers and refused to surrender his self-respect to them. He has been under suspension for the last four years and the Government has not been able to take any decision in the matter. Sometime back he lodged a suit in the court to get a redress of his grievances and the court gave its finding that undue hardship has been caused to the petitioner. The Director of Public Instruction also reviewed his case and came to the conclusion that injustice had been done to him. He was offered a post in a school but he did not accept that appointment as it was contrary to terms of his service. He is nowadays out of employment and cursing the department for victimising him merelv because he could not fawn or grovel about the officers. It is not the question of employment of the professor who has been thrown out of job but the high-handedness of the Education Department which has deprived the State of the valuable services of an able and talented professar. I would, therefore, ask the hon. Minister for Education to look into the matter and take steps that such acts of high-handenness are no longer committed in his department. If the department in this case does not administer justice to the aggrieved person the Government will have to pay eventually all the arrears of his salary amounting to

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thousands of rupees if he is reinstated under the orders of the court. In view of these circumstances, I will suggest to the Government to review the cases of the persons who are suspended, periodically, and to do justice to those to whom wrong has been done.

Secondly, I know of a case in which the Text Book Committee of the Panjab University demanded money, by way of illegal gratification, from a publisher for prescrbing his books as text books.

Deputy Speaker : The hon Member is requested not to make such remarks against anybody unless he has got a definite proof with him.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, I have got sufficient proof with me for making such allegations against the Advisory Committee. There are even cases in which a book was prescribed by the Punjab University but copies of it were not available in the market anywhere. However, after great search for the book one copy was found in a shop of second hand bookseller at Patiala. It would, therefore, be better if the publishers are insisted upon to send 100 copies of the prescribed books to the University. It is most scandalous that a book should be prescribed without a single copy being actually printed.

Madam, I wanted to say a great deal more but as the time at my disposal is short I shall confine myself to one or two points more. So long as we had not achieved independence we were never tired of expressing our opposition to the principle of nomination. But now that our own party is in power we find the same old pernicious practice of nomination being continued even in such educational matters as the admission of students to the Engineering College at Roorke. In spite of our repeated protests this practice is not being stopped. The object of nomination is still the same as it used to be in the pre-independence era. The Ministers want to have powers to favour their own kith and kin, friends and protege.

It is a pity, Madam, that our Government is following in the footsteps of the British Government in this matter as well as many others. Fifty per cent of the appointments are also being made by nomination.

There is another matter to which I want to draw your attention. While our Government says that it has no funds to open more primary

schools, I wonder how it has managed to provide money for opening two new Degree Colleges So far as the College for Tanda Urmar is concerned, I can say that there is no genuine need for it We have heard of jobs being created to provide a source of livelihood to Ministers' henchmen, but we have never heard before of a College being opened in an area from which a Minister proposes to stand for winning a seat in the Legislative Assembly in the next elections. Madam, you will be surprised to know that the demand of the people of Dasuya tehsil, in which there are as many as twenty high schools for a College has been ignored and it has been decided to open a College at Tanda Urmer, which is so near Jullundur and Hoshiarpur, in spite of the fact that the residents of Dasuya were prepared to contribute to the Government funds from their own pockets.

And finally I want to refer to the District Board schools in which no education worth the name is being imparted and whose teachers do no other work expect coaching the children of the members of the Boards or writing letters for them or doing other odd jobs for them. I would urge the Government to provincialize these schools as early as possible. It would not make much difference to it since already 75 per cent of the expenses of such schools are being met from the Government Exchequer. It is a pity that our Government is clinging to the old method of giving grants to the Boards, which were started in 1915-16, instead of assuming direct responsibility for running them. Some planning is essential for the progress of education but how can our Ministers spare any time for this noble work. They are always too occupied with the problem of keeping their 'gaddis' stable and secure and Members like myself have no time to spare from their efforts to upturn them.

In the end I would again suggest the farmation of a five-year or a ten-years plan to advance the cause of education and its implementation regardless of personal or party differences. It is only in this way that we can best serve the interests of the people.

Master Gurbanta Singh (Jullundur, General, Rural) (Reserved Seat) (*Punjabi*): Madam, before the advent of freedom the leaders of the Congress organization were not tired of saying that when they come into power they would see to it that no village was without a school. They also used to make claims of bringingab out universal

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literacy. But what have they done in the matter during the last three and a half years. Not a single new school has been opened in the villages in my district aud as regards other districts also I doubt if the number of schools existing in the pre-partition era in rural areas has increased to any appreciable extent. So far as my district is concerned. their number might have decreased ; it has not increased in any case. Big claims are made on behalf of this Government that it represents the poor masses but so far as I think there is not a grain of truth in those claims. That it is the Government of the plutocrats or their agents is a fact about which no one should have any doubt. During the last three years and a half whatever educational institutions have been opened they are in the towns which are the abode of the rich. You can see there people strutting on the Mall in the evening. Can't they afford to start schools and colleges with money from their own pockets ? Why should the Government open schools for their children ignoring the claims of those who fill its coffers by bearing the brunt of taxation, who supply soldiers for the defence of the country and who produce food and other necessities of life for the whole country ? If roads are built, it is in the towns. If Schools are opened, it is in the towns. If hospitals are opened, it is in the towns. Why ? Have the ruralites committed some unpardonable sin ?

Madam, the pity of the matter is that these very Ministers and others, sitting on the Ministerial Benches, who claim to represent the rural people,are betraying them. When they visit the villages, they claim to be the champions of rural interest, but when the occasion to allocate money for schemes of rural uplift in the Budget comes, they make, a *Volte-face*. And when people succeed in being returned to this House from rural constituencies, they bid good-bye to the villages and begin to live in the town. I want to sound a note of warning that the ruralites are no longer simpletons of old ; They know who is their real well-wisher and who is not sincere towards them and so such friends should take it from me that they will no longer be able to deceive them.

Madam, my Friend Pandit Jiwan Lall has stated that there are no schools for girls in rural areas within a distance of five miles. I can say without fear of contradiction that in rural areas schools for girls are not to be found even at a distance of twenty miles. Every tehsil may be having one such school and no more. I want to urge the Government to pay more attention to female education and for this purpose open more and more schools for girls in villages. A country cannot make any progress if its womenfolk are uneducated.

Shri Virendra : And if the Ministers of a State are uneducated ?

Master Gurbanta Singh: I don't know what happens then though I can say that among the Ministers there are some who have not been to any school or college. Their only qualification is that they have either been 'granthis' or 'updeshaks' of Arya Samaj. *(Laughter)*

I am really surprised to find that the English language is still supreme in India even after the exit of the Englishman. The English teachers are getting very high salaries in comparison with the vernacular teachers and nobody listens to the representations of the latter when they ask for higher wages. Such a state of affairs becomes all the more obscure to me when I find that during the census operations every one of us including our hon. Ministers gave out that Hindi or Punjabi was our language. If it is really so, I ask the Government why such a step-motherly treatment is being meted out to our own languages.

I may now say a few words about the favours which are being shown to my community by this Government. This pamphlet, which concerns the Education Department, says that all the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes have been exempted from the payment of tuition fees and are awarded stipends. But this information is quite different from what has been given to me in reply to a question that was asked by me sometime ago. It is rather difficult to say whether the information in the pamphlet or that which is contained in the reply to my question is correct. In reply to my question I was told that in the High Classes 798 out of 2203 students, in F. A. Classes 83 out of 429 students, in B. A. Classes in 16 out of 67 students and in M. A. Classes 2 out of 3 students had been granted stipends. In other words 1405 students of the High Classes, 346 students of the F. A. Classes, 51 students of the B. A. Classes and one student of the M. A. Classes had not been given any stipends.

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and it is wrong to say that all students have been awarded stipends. What I have said of stipends is equally true of the tuition fee and the information contained in the reply to my question is probably correct. Anyhow, the claim put forth in the pamphlet is absolutely wrong and I have purposely pointed this fact out so that the new Education Minister should know as to what is being done in this department. I hope that in future he will be good enough to see that this department does not mislead the people by giving wrong information.

Madam, it has been said that this Government has been extra kind to the Scheduled Castes. With your permission I would say a few words about this kindness I find that a sum of about two lakhs has been spent on us during two and a half years which means that about eighty thousand rupees only have been spent on us during a year. I am really sorry to say, Madam, that we are treated as untouchables not only outside this House but even inside this House by your goodself and the hon. Members. Here we are not given sufficient time to voice our grievances.

Deputy Speaker : At any rate, I do not consider you an untouchable.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : On a point of order, Madam. I think the hon. Member has cast a reflection on this august House and he should be asked to withdraw his words.

Master Gurbanta Singh . Madam, I say that no goodness has been shown to us by this Government. It has spent on us something like two lakhs and thirty thousand rupees in about two and a half years i.e about eighty thousand rupees in a year whereas it has spent a sum of ten lakhs and forty-six thousand rupees on Hindus and Sikhs. We form about twenty per cent of the population of the State and according to this proportion at least a sum of about two lakhs of rupees should have been spent on us. I say is this justice ? And then we are being told that a sum of 23 laks of rupees will be spent on us during the course of next ten years. I have apprehensions that out of this amount hardly ten laks will be spent on us and the remaining 13 lakhs will go God knows where.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural): Madam, I wish to make a few observations regarding

grants-in-aid I notice from the Budget that in the year 1949-50, Rs. 5,41,000 were given as grants to non-Government secondary schools, whereas in the year 1951-52 they have been reduced to Rs. 4,97,000. I wish to observe that the non-Government schools are doing great service to the cause of education. By spending less they are giving education to a greater number of boys. The results they achieve and their activities are also commendable. As compared to this, the Government proposes to spend on Government secondary schools during the next year, Rs. 35,00,000 whereas in the current year they spend only Rs. 31,00,000. The tendency, therfore, seems to be that the non-Government schools should be given as less a grant as possible and this grant is being reduced every year. I would ask the Government that special encourangement should be given to the non-Government schools which are doing a great service.

My second point is that the Punjab Education Code is a very old statute and, moreover it is not exhaustive. Time has come when all the rules and regulations, which are contained in the Punjab Education Code, should be modified and made exhaustive. I find that there are many disputes which arise between the school authorities and teachers of private schools and there is no definite rule by which their conditions of service are guided. The result is that there is a good deal of litigation between the various authorities and the teachers and sometimes the inspectorate give its own interpretations and these interpretations are different between one authority and another.

It is gratifying to note that the Government has provided 26 per cent of the total budget for the beneficent departments and out of this 45 per cent. has been set apart for education. While this is very encouraging, I find that in the year 1948-49,57 per cent was spent on primary education but for the next year it has been reduced to 50 per cent.

This is high time, and the growing need of the country and the nation, that we should spread education and if possible enforce compulsory primary education in the State. Madam, I am gratified to know that the Government has given certain facilities for the opening of new educational institutions. For instance, it has now issued a circular to the effect that now schools will be allowed to be opened at places where the inhabitants agree to pay three years deficit on the maintenance of

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those schools, and the Government will be prepared to give an adequate grant to such institutions. I may also mention that in the new Panchayat Act, wich has not yet been brought on the Statute Book...

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : And which you are discussing.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : I am not discussing the Bill but only mentioning that it is proposed to have a provision for a piece of land for a school in each village. So, in future, there is not likely to be any difficulty in finding a suitable site for the location of a school.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : There is no paucity of sites. The Government should have no difficulty in opening new schools for want of suitable sites.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : There was a good deal of difficulty in the recognition of new schools because the condition laid for a proper building was rather stiff and it was not easy to fulfill that condition for an ordinary village or any particular community which wanted to open a school in a small place. Under the rules it was provided that there must be a specified minimum space for each student and that so many rooms were required in a building for a school. I am pleased to learn that a circular has been issued that if people provided a thatched or hutted accommodation, in a clean and hygenic surrounding, for a school, that would be accepted and the school would be given recognition. This concession will go a long way in minimising this difficulty which was being caused in the way of opening new schools.

Then, coming to the number of school, I find that only the number of lower middle schools has decreased a little because some of them were not found to be working properly and were closed down. As regards the primary and other school, their number has increased and I am happy to see that the number of scholars in the schools has increased considerably. It shows that the people have a great desire to send their children to schools. I agree with Chaudhri Lahri Singh that special facilities should be provided for the education of girls and the adults Some hostels should be set up for those girls

who want to receive higher education after passing the primary standard If suitable hostels are provided for girls it would give a great impetus to the parents of the girls to send their daughters for higher education. Now th y want that their daughters should study further but as there is no proper arrangement for the girls to stay in hostels their parents cannot send them for higher education. I request that hostels must be provided for them.

The Government has set up 134 Social Education Centres including 26 centres for women. Two mobile-cinema units properly equipped with films have also been purchased for this purpose. The Government spent about Rs. 2 lakhs last year and this year provisson for Rs. 1,75,000 has been made in the Budget I may also state, Madam, that this has been done in accordance with the direction and policy of the Government of India, The Government of India stressed the desirability of opening these Social Education Centres. For the year 1950-51 no financial assistance was given but now I understand that the Government of India propose to provide a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs 30 lakhs for the next five years so that the scheme is given effect to in full swing. Unless illiterate adults are educated, not only in three, R,s. but also in Social Service, Hygiene, Sanitation, Civic Sense etc., and unless proper arraugements are made to impart education on these matters, no progress is possible. When I say that the Government should pay attention to these things, I urge that full cooperation from the people of the State should also be forthcoming to achieve the desired result.

Madam, there is yet another matter to which I would like to refer. I take this opportunity of expressing my deep sense of gratitude to the students and teachers and also to the Education Department, who, unmindful of the inconvenience caused to them extended their helping hand for the destruction of locusts All the schools and colleges were closed and the students were deputed to do this public service. The Minister for Education (Sardar Narotam Singh) and the Director of Public Instruction were present on the spot to initiate the work There were 1200 school students and 300 college students. I had also an occasion, along with Sardar Ajit Singh, to go there. The campaign was very successful as about 5,000 maunds of locusts and 250 maunds of eggs were destroyed. These are the figures of Hoshiarpur only. This work is most commendable and must be appreciated.

Sardar Bachan Singh: (Ludhiana Central Sikh Rural) (*Hindi*): Madam, if you were to look at the Budget, you would find that the expenditure on education now is less than that in the joint Punjab. Whereas in the joint Punjab, this expenditure was 13.27 per cent of the total Budget, now it is only 11.77 per cent. In other words, there is a decrease of 1.5 per cent in the expenditure on education as compared to the expenditure in the joint Punjab. It might be said that the total amount earmarked for this purpose now is more than that in the united Punjab. But the fact is that the increase in the amount is due to an increase in dearness allowances and not due to the opening of new schools. Of course, there are a few favoured institutions which have been helped by the Government. For instance, there is one Gandhi National Memorial College at Ambala. This name incudes all the good epithets which can be employed for this purpose. But in actual practice, this college deceitfully included outsiders in its team which participated in the university foot-ball matches. The university authorities, when they came to know of this fact, rusticated those boys for two years. It is such dishonest colleges which get maximum amount of grant from the Government.

As regards primary education, madam, I find no increase in the grant for the primary schools. The amount set apart for this purpose is the same which used to be in the past. The amount spent on primary schools in 1949-50 was Rs. 95,36,000 and, according to the revised estimates for the current year, this amount was Rs. 95,95,000. The amount earmarked now for this purpose is Rs. 96,73,000. No doubt, there has been some increase in the travelling allowances and daily allowances of the officers, but actually the expenditure on primary educatio during the regime of this Government has been less than before. Various speakers have put forward various demands. For instance, Chaudhri Lahri Singh demanded that a boarding house should be built. But the position of the Government is that of the boy who was asked whether he had learnt to read and to strike-off and he replied that he had learnt the latter thing. If the hon Members want the Government to close down ten primary schools, it would readily do so, but there should be no hope of getting new schools opened during the *Raj* of this Government. If at all any colleges will be opened, they will be opened in towns such as Simla and Dalhousie.

An hon Member: But Tanda is not a big town.

Sardar Bachan Singh: This Government will not open any schools and colleges in the rural areas. The vernacular teachers,

during the regime of this Government, are treated as orphans as compared to the English teachers. I think the education in our State will flourish only when there is a change in our outlook and it becomes tuly national in character. Now-a-drys things are going on with the momentum of the British regime. There has been no change in the methods of and approach to the work which is being done now. Then, Madam, a huge amount has been earmarked for direction and inspection in this Budget. God save us from such a Government. Out of a total amount of Rs. 1,93,00,000, earmarked for education, no less than Rs. 5,21,900 has been set aside for direction and Rs. 9,05,000 for inspection How can we hope for any betterment in the situation, when so much is being spent on direction and inspection alone. I can say, on the basis of the information that I have got, that the administration of this department now is more top-heavy than it was in the joint Puujab. The fact is that this truncated State is over-burdened with huge paraphernalia. You may look at any department. Everywhere you find that the administration is top-heavy. In the Engineering department there is an excessive number of Superintending Engineers. Similarly, in the Education Department, there is excessive number of Divisional Inspectors After all what is the need of these middle-category inspectors in this small State comprising only 12 districts. But the fact of the matter is that the Government must help the big officers at the cost of low-paid teachers. The vernacular teachers are even today getting the same meager salary of Rs. 40 per mensem. How can they make their both ends meet with this salary, when the cost of living index stands today at 425 while in 1939 it was 100. They cannot get even sufficient bread to fill their bellies. It is due to this fact that they cannot devote sufficient attention to the education of our children. Their education thus remains incomplete.

Then, Madam there is one thing more about which a lot of propaganda is being carried on these days. Our hon Chief Minister is in the forefront of this propaganda. It is with regard to the spreading of the basic education in the State. As a matter of fact, no bigger fraud than this one under the name of basic education has ever been committed on the people. After all how many basic schools are actually going on in our State. And then the basic education must iuclude education in agriculture. In how many schools has this been done? In how many schools arrangements have been made for games? There might be just one or two schools of this type in the State. But on the whole, we do not find any such school in the State.

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It is said, "We are the followers of Gandhi." Only just now a Parliamentary Secretary was saying in his speech, "It is gratifying to note etc., etc." The fact is that he was gratified as soon as he occupied that bench.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: When would the hon. Member be gratified?

Sardar Bachan Singh: I shall be grafified when our children shall get the opportunity to receive education and when they will not go about unemployed after getting their education.

Sardar Shiv Saran Signh: Was the hon. Member not gratified when he was appointed Chief Parliamentary Secretary?

Sardar Bachan Singh: No, I was not gratified even then. Now, Madam, I want to draw your attention to a matter which has become scandalous in our State. It is the matter of text books. I have information that if the Education Department takes upon itself the task of publishing text books, it can increase its revenues by no less than Rs. 10 lakhs which can be utilized on the implementation of its schemes. At present we hear various scandals in regard to the publishers of the Education Department. If the Government really wants that our children should receive education, it shall have to find out means by which it can get more money without putting extra burden on the people. For this purpose, it shall have to take upon itself the work of publishing text books. If this is done, the Government shall get more funds and the students will also be able to get books at cheap prices.

Last of all, Madam, I wish to submit that at present the condition of education in our State is such that more attention is paid to the Urban areas and the villages are neglected. It has been stated that the Government intends replacing English by Hindi or Punjabi within a period of fifteen years. In fact, in the schools and colleges of Punjab there is no such difficulty in the way of bringing about such a charge even now as there may be in States like Madras and Bengal. Here the Government can encourage the regional language and make it a vehicle of all thought and expression. As a matter of fact it should be made to replace English at as early a date as possible, because there is no reason why it cannot bo done in this State. With

these words I once again express the hope that our Government will take steps to introduce the language of the people immediately.

Shri Buja Ram Bhagat: (Loharu, Dujana and Pataudi States) (*Hindi*): Madam, Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the national Government will give utmost priorty to education in the rural areas of the country. It is a generally recognised fact that unless educational facilities are extended to the villages, the freedom that we have achieved after so much struggle is not worth the name and it cannot be maintained in the presence of so much ignorance among the masses. As a matter of fact the people in villages are unable to speak for themselves. So it is the duty of the State to try to understand the requirements of these people and to work for their uplift. In the State of Punjab, Hissar is the most backward district and in Hissar itself the Tehsil of Bhiwani is most backward. In that illaqa the schools are few and far between. The difficulty is that left to themselves the poor people are unable to spend thousands of rupees on raising buildings for schools. It is the duty of the Government to look to the needs of the backwards areas in respect of education. Good and honest teachers should be sent to such areas. But I am sorry to remark that instead of sending such teachers the Government sends characterless teachers on the basis of recommendations and not of merit. Such teachers go about in the villages and indulge in activities which reflect upon their character. How can such teachers teach morals to the young pupils? This is the main cause of our troubles. I would appeal to the Government to send only such persons who are intelligent and of good character. The three states, which I represent, merged in the Punjab with high hopes for the betterment and progress of their ignorant and uneducated people. But I am sorry to note that our hopes have been belied In some villages it has become difficult for us to justify the merger before the people who say that they were better of under the Nawabs. The prevailing sentiment against the Government is the direct outcome of the non-fulfilment of the promises held out to the poor. If we look to the conditions prevailing in the districts of Gurgaon, Rohtak and Hissar, we can easily come to the conclusion that they are not satisfactory in any way. Previously we were told by our leaders that the main cause of dissatisfaction was the unsuccessful working of the District Boards. They used to criticize and suggest that the District Boards

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should be abolished altogether because they served no useful purpose and were a needless burden on the people. But now we find that no steps are taken to abolish them. I hope some steps will be taken with a view to improve the present state of affairs.

Minister for Education (The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand) (*Hindi*): Madam, first of all I wish to congratulate you on your occupying the Chair as Deputy Speaker. As for myself I am thankful to the hon. Chief Minister for the confidence he has reposed in me and I shall try to discharge my duties with the best of my abilities.

Shri Virendra : But please, dont take to 'Sanyasa'.

Minister for Education : I am not of that type. Madam, I welcome the criticism that has been directed against the Department of Education on the floor of this House today and also the useful suggestions that some of the hon. Members have made. As a matter of fact, the hon. Members have lightened my burden to a large extent. I agree with them that there are some defects in the present system of Education. I am not in favour of retaining it as it is, because it needs radical changes. Every one knows that we have inherited the present system of education from our British rulers who, in order to run the administration of the country and to keep it slave, needed clerks and so they evolved a system which no longer suits us. Sir Radha Krishnan, Chairman of the University Commission, appointed by the Government of India some time back, pointed out that the main defect in our system was that it is examination-ridden from top to bottom. As a matter of fact, it would be in the fitness of things if we name our children as 'Imtihan Chand' etc. (*Laughter*). Another defect which is inherent in the present system is that love for manual labour is conspicuous by its absence. In 1915 when I went to join a college at Lahore we used to say:

है बात तब किसी को ना हिरफत से आर हो

हर एक ग्रेजुएट यहाँ हस्तकार हो।

बी. ए. लुहार हो एम. ए. चमार हो।

फिर देखें हिन्द में कैसी बहार हो।

ਹੈ ਬਾਤ ਤਬ ਕਿਸੀ ਕੋ ਨ ਹਿਰਫਤ ਸੇ ਆਰ ਹੋ ।

ਹਰ ਇਕ ਗ੍ਰੈਜੁਏਟ ਯਹਾਂ ਦਸਤਕਾਰ ਹੋ ।

ਬੀ: ਏ: ਲੁਹਾਰ ਹੋ, ਐਮ: ਏ: ਚਮਾਰ ਹੋ ।

ਫਿਰ ਦੇਖੇਂ ਹਿੰਦ ਮੇਂ ਕੈਸੀ ਬਹਾਰ ਹੋ।

But in actual practice our youngmen go to get education with the idea of becoming, E. A. Cs', Tehsildars and Thanedars. They are always after service. I think, this type of education which Englishmen started in India should go. What is needed is the overhauling of the entire system and the introduction of radical changes in it. Although there are many defects in the present system, yet we cannot over-look the fact that it was this very system which produced eminent statesmen politicians, engineers, lawyers and doctors in India during the latter half of the last century and the present century. As a matter of fact it was mainly on account of the democratic and national sentiments aroused in our youngmen, educated on western lines, that we struggled and achieved independence. But now that we are a free people, conditions have entirely changed and we stand in need of a system of education which may teach us how to be good citizens of India. We need certain qualities of character, for example, punctuality. I am constrained to remark that we are very deficient in this important habit. It is a common saying that whenever any one is late he says, "it is Indian time". We should inculcate the habit of punctuality in our children so that they may become good and useful citizens of India. Before I reply to the criticism made here on the floor of this House I wish to make certain submissions which will, to a certain extent, include such replies. I hope the hon. Members will pay heed to my suggestions.

Madam, the House might be aware of the fact that the total population of our State is 1,26,97,000 at present. Now I would like to tell the hon. Members that the number of children of school-going age i. e. between six and eleven years is 18,90,000. But you will be surprised to hear that whereas the number of children actually at

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school stood at 7.61,328 on 31st March, 1950, it went upto 8,14.070 on 30th September, 1950. Although the increase in the number of children of school-going age, both in towns and countryside schools, is heartening, yet if the precentage is worked up, it is not so encouraging. In other words, only forty per cent of our children are receiving education while sixty per cent remain illiterate on account of lack of any arrangement for imparting education or due to shortage of educational institutions. I fully realize that it is the bounden duty of every good Government to make adequate arrangements for the education of all the children of the State I admit that there should be no illiteracy in the rural areas I know that in certain backward areas, no literate person is found to read out letters or a telegram received by the villagers. I feel and fervently desire that every ruralite should be a literate person. I think an educated farmer can be of more service to the country than an illiterate zamindar who refuses to utilize improved agricultural implements which help increase the produce. The uneducated zamindar insists on using the same old plough for cultivation of his land which his forefathers used to employ. The result is that he stands where his ancestors stood in the matter of effecting any improvements in the methods of cultivation. So, it is extremely necessary that illiteracy should be liquidated from amongst the rural people. Not only this. I think a literate carpenter and a black-smith would be able to play a better part in the rural economy than his illiterate artisan brother. Keeping these facts in view, whatever work the Department of Education has been able to do in bringing about the light of knowledge in the State by opening higher secondary, secondary and primary schools during the last three years, it deserves commendation. I would just mention the progress that has been made in the field of education. The number of primary schools for boys and girls on 31st March, 1948 stood respectively at 2821 and 998 and their number on 30th September, 1950 was 3127 and 1037 for boys and girls respectively. Then the total enrolment in primary schools for boys and girls on 31st March, 1948 amounted to 176,757 and 67,616 respectively and on 30th September, 1950 it stood at 278,289 and 96,108 for boys and girls. It will appear from these figures that there has been a considerable increase both in institutions as well as in enrolment in the case of boys and girls primary schools.

Sardar Bachan Singh: May I know whether the figures cited by the hon. Minister include private institutions also ?

Minister for Education: Yes. These figures cover all the primary schools in the State.

Shri Virendra: May I know whether Government will take the credit of the private enterprise also ?

Minister for Education: No. Well, Sir, as I stated earlier, the present system of education is not suited to us. So we are trying to replace it gradually by opening primary as well as high schools of Basic Type. It has been wrongly stated by one of my hon. Friends that only four schools of Basic type have been established. I may point out that Government sanctioned the opening of 25 primary schools of Basic Type during the year 1950 and proposes to open the same number of such schools in 1951-52. Besides this, with the aid of the Central Government, it is also propo ed to open 100 junioı basic schools and convert the same number of existing Primary Schools into Basic ones during the next year i. e. 1951-52.

Then, Sir, keeping in view the growing demand for Basic Education in the new set up of the country, a Refresher Course of six weeks duration for Vernacular Teachers was held at Jagraon As a result of this 44 teachers of both sexes successfully completed the course. These trained teachers in Basic Education are a great necessity for the State because without them we cannot succeed in our aim of imparting basic education to our children.

Then, Sir, it has been stated that happy were those times when our children used to get their education under the green trees and in the open air. It would afford me great pleasure if the return of of those times could be possible. But now the times have changed and we shall have to keep abreast of the latest developments in the educational field. So with a view to promote education in rural areas, Government has relaxed the rule regarding the construction of a pucca building before opening the school. Is has ordered that if the school managements cannot construct expensive school buildings, this will not stand in their way to get recognition to their schools from the Government. On the other hand, the Department of Education will be satisfied if they provide hutted or thatched

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accommodation suitable from hygienic and sanitary points of view. The hon. Members can well imagine from this the keenness of the Government to promote primary education.

Now I would like to make a mention of the extension of educational facilities for secondary education provided by the Government to the people of the State. So far as Middle Schools are concerned, their number for boys and girls respectively stood at 923 and 85 on 30th September, 1950. And the total enrolment in Middle Schools for boys and girls amounted to 152504 and 26279 respectively on the same date. As regards high schools, their number was 269 for the boys and 40 for the girls in March, 1948, and it went up to 367 and 41 for boys and girls respectively on 30th September, 1950. As to the enrolment in High Schools the number of boys and girls in March 1948 was 142426 and 13262 respectively and on 30th September, 1950 it stood at 241492 and 19369 for boys and girls respectively. It will appear from these figures that there has been an all-round progress in schools and scholars since partition. Whereas there has been an increase in the number of high schools by 100, the number of scholars has gone up by almost one lakh as compared with the figures for 1948. Then, as my hon. Friends are interested in the development of education in the rural areas, I would like to state the efforts made by the Government in that respect. The figures regarding schools in Rural Areas are like this.

Schools in Rural Areas.		31st March, 1948.	30th September 1950.
High Schools	For boys	109	175
	For Girls	1	1
Middle Schools	For Boys	1037	894
	For Girls	33	29
Primary Schools	For Boys	2765	2814
	For Girls	815	855

Enrolment in schools situated in rural areas.

High Schools	For Boys	41504	75930
	For Girls	434	524
Middle Schools	For Boys	128470	141006
	For Girls	4740	5855
Primary Schools	For boys	140574	200556
	For girls	43602	56543

These figures indicate that there has been a satisfactory progress in the number of schools which were opened by the Department. The increase in the number of scholars is also very encouraging. I hope the House will agree with me that the endeavours of the Government in disseminating education in the rural areas are of no mean order. But I feel that if the intelligentsia extends its whole-hearted cooperation to the Government, the lot of the displaced people can be improved considerably in the field of education. I quite realise that our people have suffered a lot in the domain of education because all those premier institutions including our professional colleges, like the Balak Ram Medical College, have been left in West Pakistan. But despite this colossal loss, the vigour and the fortitude with which our displaced brethren had tried to re-establish those institutions, deserves commendation. It is a matter of history that Punjab had been the victim of the ravages of the foreign invaders for the last 700 years but every time Punjab recovered. The partition dealt a stunning blow to the existence of the denizens of the Punjab, but they are recovering gradually from that blow, since they are almost rehabilitated. It is my firm faith that our Punjab is alive and will ever remain alive. *(Cheers.)*

Budget figures for the last three years are as follows :

Year			Rs.
1948-49	—	—	1,92,02,750
1949-50	—	—	1,83,45,480
1950-51	—	—	1,87,07,770

[Minister for Eduction]

And the total amount of distribution of the Budget of this Department under various heads for 195 -52 is Rs. 1,93,25,600. It is clear from this that the percentage of expenditure on Education is steadily increasing. But all the same I quite agree that the amount set apart for education from the total revenues of the State is not quite sufficient and that it is not possible to work out the schemes with this amount. It is abundantly clear from the figures quoted above that the percentage of the Budget for Education to the total Budget of the State for the year 1951-52 is 11.5 I have no doubt that 11.5% allocation out of the total revenue is not encouraging. Some of my hon. Friends have in the course of their speeches pointed out that the Bombay Government is spending much more on its education than we do. Perhaps they have lost sight of the fact that the revenue of that State is as much as Rs. 55 crores and there is every justification on the part of that Government to spend more on the education of the people of that State. If we compare the revenue of that State with our State we will find that our Government is spending quite a reasonable amount on the education of our people. If we work out the percentage of the Budget for education to the Budget for Beneficent Departments, my hon. Friends will note that the percentage of expenditure on Beneficent Departments out of the total Budget is as follows ;—

1948-49	—	—	—	46%
1949-50	—	—	—	45%
1950-51	—	—	—	46%
1951-52	—	—	—	45%

It is interesting to observe that in 1951-52, 26% of the total Budget will be spent on beneficent departments out of which 45% will be spent on education alone.

Further, if we study the figures of expenditure on primary, secondary and collegiate education of our State, we will find that the percentage of these expenditures during 1951-52 is 50%, 22%, and 14% respectively.

My hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh has stated that the Central Government do not afford any financial assistance to us for promoting

education in the State. I would like to bring this point home to him that the Central Government will resume its financial assistance to the States on the basis of which 2 year, and 5 year plans are being worked out. It is expected that our State will receive during the next 5 years a sum of Rs. 65 lakhs out of which Rs. 45 lakhs would be spent on the Basic Education and Rs. 20 Lakhs on the Social Education.

Further my hon. Friend Pandit Jiwan Lal has made a mention about the Physical Training which he said should be given to all the students in the schools and colleges. As a matter of fact it goes without saying that Punjab is the sword-arm of India and the imparting of physical education and military training to the boys during their school and college career is the crying need of the hour. I would like to bring this point home to my hon. Friends in general and my hon. Friend Pandit Jiwan Lal in particular that we are imparting military training to boys in schools as well as in the colleges. Besides, we are also giving military training to girls. My hon. Friends will be pleased to learn that in 1950-51, 2398 students have been trained in the colleges and 5430 students in the schools. Besides, we have also given military training to 90 girls students. I am of the opinion that mere education is not going to help our students to serve their country in the true sense of the word. In fact their education has no meaning at all if they cannot defend their motherland. It was with this end in view that our Government incurred an expenditure of Rs. 8 lakhs on giving military training to the boys and girls of the State.

Further, our Government has rightly laid a considerable emphasis on the Physical Education. It was with this end in view that in the last 3 years special courses have been organised in co-operation with the Boy Scouts Association at Taradevi. So far nearly 2 lakhs of rupees have been spent on the organization of the 3 courses. My hon. Friends will be glad to learn that 126 students including 35 women have been trained and nearly all of them have been absorbed.

My hon. Friend Master Gurbanta Singh has, in the course of his speech, complained that scholarships have not been given to Harijans. I would like to make this point clear for the information of my hon.

[Minister for Education]

Friend Master Gurbanta Singh that all Harijans and Sikh backward class students, studying in recognized schools and affiliated colleges from 5th class to M.A. are exempted from the payment of tuition fees and examination fees for University and also departmental examinations etc. Besides this, they are awarded stipends. During the last three years a sum of over 5 lakhs of rupees has been distributed to promote the interests of these classes and over 37,000 students at schools and colleges have been benefited from it. But all the same I have no hesitation in saying that my hon. Friend Master Gurbanta Singh is to some extent justified in making the complaint. I may inform him that the Government of India have not yet decided as to which of the castes are to be included amongst the Scheduled Castes. As and when this decision is taken by the Government, all those students who would be included in the list of the Scheduled Castes and whose fees have not been exempted, would surely be paid the arrears due to them.

Further, some of my hon. Friends have, in the course of their speeches, complained that teachers and particularly the teachers of the local body schools are paid at very low rates. (*Voices : What about the Vernacular teachers*). Since we have entrusted the task of shaping the destiny of our children to the teachers and if we want our new generations to grow and produce more of Jawaharlals and Lajpat Rais, it is but necessary to improve the status of our teachers. If the teachers are paid adequately, there is no reason why they should not work and work well in the interests of both the State and the Government. In sppite of the financial condition of our State Government has decided that the teachers of the Local Bodies should be paid at the same rate as the teachers of the Government Schools This is not all. It has been decided to allow the teachers of the Local Bodies to draw Dearness Allowance at the same rates as is given to the teachers of the Government Schools. It has been decided by the Government to fix the lowest grade of the teachers in the grade of 40-2-100. My hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh wants to know something about the vernacular teachers. Madam, through You, I would like to inform him and also my other hon. Friends that for the present, Matriculate S. V. teachers would be treated at par with J. A. V's and they will get the same grade of pay. (*Cheers*). As the Minister-in-Charge of Education of the State, I would like to make it clear in unequivocal terms that there was a time

when we picked up foreign languages and picked them well. Under the circumstances, there is no reason why we should not study Hindi, and Gurmukhi, the former being our Federal Language while the latter is our Regional Language.

Now about the teachers in the privately managed colleges. In fact these teachers have also represented to the Government to treat them at par with the teachers of the Government Colleges. Government has decided that in the privately managed colleges teachers would get the same grade of Pay as those in the Government institutions They will start with a salary of Rs 170 with Dearness Allowance at the Government rates. It has also been decided that taking up of tuitions, writing books, or accepting examiner-ships should be accepted as a teacher's privilege. More-over, it has also been decided that college teachers should be enabled to serve up to the age of 60 with the previous permission of the University.

Further, my hon. Friend Shri Virendra has in the course of his speech suggested that the Agricultural College should be converted into Industrial and Technical College. I am really constrained to remark that educated youngmen are very much after Government service. I do not want them to knock at the doors of the officials and the Ministers in search of employment. It goes without saying that after completing their education they do not need pleasing anybody, whosoever he be, for arranging jobs for them, On the other hand their education is a great weapon with them and they should not find it difficult to earn their livelihood. It is really a pity that our young graduates prefer to work on meagre salaries in the towns and they are averse to going into the rural areas where the people would learn a lot from their scientific knowledge. They should go into the rural areas and teach the people those very things which they have themselves learnt with a view to improving their conditions. At present they prefer working on Rs. 80/- or Rs. 100/- to working in the fields in the rural areas. We will have to change this system. As a matter of fact the boys should be made to understand that so long as they do not learn to work with heir own hands they cannot make any headway in any walk of life

With regard to the demand for writing off loans given to students, the Government has already extended the time-limit for repayment of these loans to two years. If after this period it is found that they are unable to pay the loans the question will be re-examined and it

[Minister for Education]

is just possible that these loans may be written off It has been said that the Government should give adequate financial assistance to the privately-managed institutions. I quite agree with my hon. Friend who made this suggestion and I may inform him that the Government is rendering all possible assistance to these institutions as far as its funds permit It is not possible for the Government to open Government schools everywhere to cater for the needs of the student community. These institutions are doing useful work in imparting education to the boys. It was also pointed out that there are no colleges in the rural areas. In reply, I may submit that if any scheme is worked out for the opening of a college in any village, there is strong criticism from all quarters against the Government. The opening of a college at Tanda Urmar has been a subject of severe criticism by the hon. Member of this House. It is said that there is no demand for colleges in the rural areas and the colleges are being opened according to the desire of Mini ters to please their constituencies. Such a criticism cannot do any good to the State. The Government has taken a decision to start new colleges-one at Muktsar and the other at Tanda Urmar with a view to promoting education in the rural areas and also because people were offering to share the expenses and also offering buildings for colleges. In case of Tanda Urmar the people were willing to contribute the sum of Rs. 1,25,000 for opening a college there. Then my hon. Friend Thakur Dalip Singh has complained that education is very expensive. I may inform him that the Government's policy is to make education as cheap as possible. He has also complained that it is very difficult for the zamindars to send their children to cities for receiving higher education. But I do not know what my hon. Friend can suggest to solve this difficulty It is not possible for the Government to open colleges in large numbers in villages. Moreover, I think that every student is not fit for higher education. It is better that they should perfect themsleves in the art of weaving and agriculture Higher education should be given to those who are really intellectuals and can afford to go to foreign countries for further studies. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh has remarked that there is no girls' college in Ambala Division This suggestion of my hon. Friend will receive due attention of the Government. I quite agree with him that there must be at least one girls' college in a division. I will put this suggestion before the Cabinet for opening a girls' college in Ambala Division. He has also suggested that girls are

agreeable to the idea of co-education but there is no arrangement for boarding houses. I agree with the suggestion of my hon. Friend that boarding houses should be opened in Jullundur, Ambala and Simla so that girls may have no difficulty in getting education. I think I have replied to all the points raised by my hon. Friends during the course of their speeches and I hope my hon. Friends will excuse me if any of their point has escaped my notice. It was only a few days ago that I took charge of this portfolio. I assure my Friends that if they bring to my notice any difficulty which they experience in their own ilaqas I will be too willing to remove it. With these words, Madam, I re ume my seat.

Deputy Speaker : I have a request to make to the House. Today some hon. Members had expressed their desire to speak on this Demand but I am sorry to say that I have not been able to call them to speak in view of the limited time and also the large number of Members who wanted to speak. I regret to say that some of the hon. Members have not cooperated with me in transacting the business of the House. I would request the hon. Members, intending to take part in the debate, that they should send their slips to me in future during the question hour so that I may be in a position to give opportunity to all of them if possible. It is my earnest wish that I should be fair towards all in the discharge of my duties.

Question is—

That the Demand be reduced by Rs. 100.

The motion was lost.

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,93,25,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of Education.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Wednesday, 28th March 1951.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

28th MARCH, 1951

Vol. III—No. 17.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

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Wednesday, 28th March, 1951.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly

Third Session of the First Punjab Legislative Assembly

WEDNESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 2 p. m. of the clock.

ABSENCE OF HONOURABLE SPEAKER.

Secretary: I have to inform the House that the hon. Speaker is unavoidably absent. The Deputy Speaker will, therefore, take the Chair.

(*Shrimati Shanno Devi, Deputy Speaker, occupied the Chair.*)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: With your permission, I would like to ask a few supplementary questions to question No. 2880.†

Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: May I know how long will it take to construct the bunds to protect the towns of Narot Jaimal Singh and Dera Baba Nanak ?

Minister For Public Works: As regards Dera Baba Nanak I have already replied, and so far as the protection of the other town is concerned, experiment is being made. When the result from the Research station is received necessary action will be taken.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Does the Government intend to construct the bunds in Narot Jaimal Singh before the rainy season sets in as it had promised during the last session ?

Minister; The Government is trying its best to do so but it is risky to undertake the work of constructing bunds beforeexperiment is made in this behalf In these days of financial stringency it is necessary to make sure before hand that the proposed steps will achieve the desired results.

† Vide Debates dated 27th March 1951.

CHOS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

*2881. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the steps the Government has taken or comtemplates taking to save the villages of Hoshiarpur District from the ravages of Chos ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand : The Forest Department to whom the work of protecting villages against damage by chos in the Hoshiarpur District has been entrusted, are afforesting the catchments of the chos and contouring cultivated lands With the run off of rain water thus checked, the chos are being trained and canalised by constructing spurs and planting grasses and trees along the banks of chos. Where necessary, chos are also trained by constructing bunds, dams, gully plugging etc.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the Government taken any practical steps in this direction ?

Minister : Steps are being taken.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the Government taken steps already or the steps are being taken now ? What are the practical steps that have been taken to protect the villages against damage by chos ?

Minister : The chos are being trained and canalised by constructing spurs and planting grasses and trees along the banks of chos.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the Government considered the report of the Forest Department to whom the work of protecting villages was entrusted ?

Minister : The condition is better than before. Such reports are usually received by the Government.

BHAKRA AND NANGAL PROJECT.

*2882. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the progress so far made in connection with Bhakra and Nangal Projects ;

(b) how long will it take to complete these projects ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The progress so far made in connection with Bhakra and Nangal Projects is as under :—

(*1*) *Bhakra Dam.*

The work on the Diversion Tunnels of the Bhakra Dam is in progress. Approximately 40% of the entire enlargement on the Diversion Tunnels has been completed to date.

The township for housing the Construction personnel at Nangal has been completed. Road and Rail communications from Rail head at Rupar to the Dam site have been established.

(*2*) *Nangal Dam.*

70% of the work on the Nangal Dam has been completed. The Nangal Hydel Channel Head Regulator has been completed in all respects except for the erection of gates and gearing, which is in hand. The work on the Nangal Hydel Channel is in full swing. 33 0 crores cft. of earthwork have been completed out of a total estimated quantity of 70·0 crores cft.

The excavation work on the Power House No. 1 is in hand. Excavation upto R. L. 990 has been completed. The ultimate foundation level is 960, which is 65′ below the sub-soil water-level.

The work on the exploration of Power House No. II has been completed and its design will now be taken up.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the progress of the work is in accordance with the plan ?

Chief Minister : It is not so.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know when this Nangal Project is likely to be completed ?

Chief Minister : The completion of this project depends upon sums of money advanced by the Government of India. It also depends

[Chief Minister]

upon the machinery which is required to carry out the works of tunnels. As the machinery has not been received hence the delay has been caused.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did not the Government foresee that adequate machinery would be required to ensure that works are carried out in accordance with the sanctioned plans ?

Chief Minister: The Government had considered the matter and it atonce wrote to the Government of India to order for this machinery but the delay was caused there.

CONTROLLING COMMITTEE OF BHAKRA AND NANGAL PROJECTS.

*2883. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the Hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the reasons why the Central Government decided to put its men in the Controlling Committee of Bhakra and Nangal Projects ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The Government of India decided that before advancing further sums of money for any river valley project, they should be satisfied that adequate machinery exists to ensure that the works are carried out in accordance with sanctioned plans and programme of work approved by the Government of India, and that there is adequate control over expenditure. The Project is a multi-purpose scheme with ramifications in other adjoining States. In order, therefore, to comply with the above decision of the Government of India to provide a forum for resolving various matters of mutual concern regarding this Project, the Bhakra Control Board and the Bhakra Advisory Board including the representatives of Centre and the States concerned were set up.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the responsibility for incurring expenditure on Bhakra and Nangal projects lies on the Punjab Government or also on the States which will get water and electricly from these projects ?

Chief Minister : The expenditure will be borne proportionately.

Shri Prabodh Chandra. : What is the proportionate ratio of expenditure which will be borne by the Punjab Government and other States like Bikaner etc.,?

Chief Minister : I cannot tell the exact ratio. The Punjab Government will bear expenditure to the extent of 70 per cent.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the Government of India took the control into its own hands as in its opinion the works were not carried out according to sanctioned plans ?

Chief Minister : We had consultations with the Government of India and it was considered necessary to do so in order to organise the work.

ISSUE OF LICENCES FOR FIRE ARMS.

*2906. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the date since which the system of categories to be given by S. H. O., Tehsildar and other officials has been introduced for considering the renewal of fire-arms licences applications together with the reasons therefor ;

(b) the change that has been made in the policy and the procedure in regard to the issue of fire-arms licences after the partition ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The instructions issued to district officers are of a confidential nature and as such it is not in the public interest to disclose them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether these instructions shall be applicable to all districts and all citizens uniformly or will there be any exceptions ?

Chief Minister : The question of exceptions' does not arise.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will licences be granted under these instructions even to those persons whose names are borne on Register No. 10 or who have some conviction for robbery or theft to their account ?

Chief Minister : The instructions in question are not with me at this time and so I cannot give a reply.

FUNDS RAISED FOR RED CROSS SOCIETY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT PATRONISED INSTITUTIONS.

*2907. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State :—

(a) whether it is a fact that certain funds of the Government patronised institutions, such as the Red Cross Society, are mostly raised through the agency of Government servants ;

(b) the names of such other institutions and societies in the State whose funds have been raised wholly or partially through the agency of Government servants under the instructions of the Government ;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the fact that in raising such funds Government officers and subordinates have exerted pressure on the public ; if so, the action Government proposes to take in the matter ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) There are certain funds specifically authorised and approved by Government and in the case of such funds, there is no objection to Government officers encouraging collections.

(b) (1) State Boy Scouts Association Fund ;

(2) St: John Ambulance Association Fund ;

(3) Red Cross Society Fund ;

(4) Lady Dufferin Fund ;

(5) Lady Minto Nursing Association Fund ;

(6) State Girl Guides Association Fund.

(c) No. If any complaint is received, it is attended to.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalanka : What is the nature of funds to the collection of which by the Government servants there can be no objection ? What is the basis of Government's approval of a fund ?

Chie Minister: I have given the list of approved and specially authorized funds. When application for approval of a fund is received, the Government examines it and decides whether it should be put on the approved list or not.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: Are the funds of the Bharat Scouts Association and the Girls Guides Association on the approved list?

Chief Minister: It is for the information of the hon. Member that Boy Scouts Association and Bharat Scouts Association have been amalgamated and now there is only one scouts organization and it is on the approved list.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: May I know what are the aims and objects of the Lady Dufferin Fund and Lady Minto Nursing Association Fund?

Chief Minister: Both the funds are analogous to Red Cross Society Fund. Out of the former, scholarships are given to students studying in medical schools and colleges on the recommendations of an Advisory Committee. Aid is also given to the hospitals out of it. The latter aims at encouraging women to go in for training in nursing and to give scholarships for this purpose. We have not yet received our share of the Nursing Fund of the Joint Punjab. This Fund is the result of collection made after the partition.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is there any administrative manual or rule under which non-official work can be entrusted to Government officials?

Chief Minister, The Government has the authority to entrust to its officers any special work that it considers necessary.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Under what rules? Have the Government framed any rules in this connection?

Chief Minister: There is no necessity of framing rules on this subject. The Government can authorize its employees to collect the approved Funds.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Have they the permission to make collections for Rural Uplift Fund?

Chief Minister: If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall let him know.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: What are the Government instructions regarding collection of these Funds? Are the officers required to make door to door collection or are they permitted to put pressure on members of the public who come to them for some business for this purpose?

Chief Minister: There are two or three methods of making collections, through the Lucky Bag, by holding fairs, and by voluntary donations.

RELIFF TO POLITICAL SUFFERERS IN THE STATE.

*2953. **Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the steps, if any, taken by the Government to implement the resolution about political sufferers passed in the last session of the Assembly ;

(b) whether any list of martyrs, political sufferers and their dependents has been prepared and any kind of help or concessions afforded to them by the Government ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) A "National Workers Relief Fund" has since been constituted to afford relief to political sufferers and their dependants in very indigent circumstances. Government have contributed a sum of Rs. 30 000/-/-towards this fund, in the first instance. Donations from the public are also being received.

(b) It is not possible to prepare such a list for want of the necessary information. Relief is, however, being given to political sufferers on applications, and so far fines amounting to Rs. 15,123/8/-have been refunded to 60 persons; confiscated properties have been restored in 8 cases, grants amounting to Rs, 2,480/-/-have been given to three political sufferers and two widows of patriots

in indigent circumstances. A life pension of Rs. 36/-/- per mensem has been given to the widow of a patriot.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : How much money has so far been received from the public in the form of donation towards this Fund ?

Chief Minister : I don't remember the exact amount but it is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 15,000/-.

RECRUITMENT OF HARIJANS IN SERVICES.

*3087. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the machinery, if any, constituted by the Government for the recruitment of Harijans in various services of Government and the instructions issued by the Government in this behalf ;

(b) whether any branch in the Civil Secretariat has been created to deal with the recruitment of Harijans to services; if so, the method of their work and the number of Harijans that have been recruited through this method?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) and (b). With a view to helping Scheduled Castes in securing suitable appointments a Schduled Castes Employment Section has been set up recently in the Civil Secretariat. Its functions are to remain in touch with Scheduled Castes candidates seeking employments and maintain a close liaison with Employment Exchange and various departments of Government with a view to helping these candidates in securing them suitable employments. A Press Note was recently issued inviting applications from Scheduled Castes candidates. These are being dealt with in the manner stated above.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if any Harijans have succeeded in getting employment through this agency so far ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this.

Master Gurbanta Singh : How many applications have up till this time been received from Harijans by the Scheduled Castes Employment Section ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, I shall let him know.

BAN ON THE PROCESSIONS AND DEMONSTRATION IN THE CIVIL AREA OF LUDHIANA.

*3101. **Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that processions and demonstrations were banned in the civil area of Ludhiana by the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, on the 11th February, 1951; if so, the period for which the ban was in force together with the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that some hon Ministers visited Ludhiana on or about the 11th February, 1951;

(c) whether it is also a fact that certain citizens wanted to proceed to place their grievances before the hon. Ministers but they were stopped by the Police; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes, for one week only, as there was a likeihood of a disturbance of the public peace and tranquillity.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the public meetings called and addressed by the hon Ministers are exempt from the ban imposed under Section 144 ?

Chief Minister : Since the Ministers speak as spokesmen and representatives of the Government, no ban is necessary in such cases.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Doesn't the Government think that leaders of other political organizations should also have the right to prely to, criticize or contradict what the Ministers say in public

meetings and for this reason they should also be allowed to address public meetings?

Chief Minister: It is an hypothetical question.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is it not a fact that the ban is removed when a meeting is to be held in which the Government is interested and it is enforced when other public meetings, which are much more important from the point of view of public interest, are to be held?

Chief Minister: It is a vague and hypothetical question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Should the people in these circumstances secure the permission of the Police to see the hon. Ministers if and when they want to place their grievances before them?

Chief Minister: This supplementary does not arise out of the main question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it for the Leader of the House or for th Chair to decide whether a particular supplementary arises out of the main question or not?

Chief Minister: I have got every right to suggest things to you, Madam.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: I would read out my supplementary and the Chair may kindly decide whether it arises out of the main question or not. My supplementary is:

> "Whether it is also a fact that certain citizens wanted to proceed to place their grievances before the hon. Ministers but they were stopped by the Police; if so, the reasons therefor?."

Chief Minister: I have given the reply.

Shrimati Sita Devi: The hon. Chief Minister was pleased to remark that I should give some definite instance. May I ask as to why Section 144 was enforced at Jullundur at night time when the Peace Conference was being held, while the same section was not applied to the Students' Conference which was held a few days later in that very town?

Chief Minister : May be the Deputy Commissioner apprehended some breach of peace from the activities of the Peace Conference and he had no such fears in the case of the Students, Conference.

Shrimati Sita Devi : If the necessity for such a step was not felt during the first two days of the Conference, why was this section enforced when the last act of the drama remained to be performed?

Chief Minister : I do not know the whole position but it is possible that the last act related to Communist propaganda and there was a fear of breach of peace from it.

SALE OF MOTOR CARS IN THE STATE.

*2790. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a whether any restrictions were imposed on the sale of motor cars in the State during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st December 1950; if so, the nature thereof together with the period for which these remained in force ;

(b) whether any of the hon. Ministers purchased any motor cars during the period referred to in part (a) ; if so, their names together with the following particulars :

(1) the number of motor cars purchased by each one of them ;

(2) the date of each such purchase ;

(3) the price paid therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

(a) No statutory restrictions were imposed on the sale of motor cars in the State during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st December 1950. The Gentleman's agreement which had existed immediately before the partition was continued with the motor dealers, under which they were required to place 35% of their quota of motor cars at the disposal of the Transport Department for allotment to

Government officers This agreement remained in force upto 6th May 1948 when it was rescinded, as the supply position had generally eased. In view, however, of the scarcity of Chev. cars, it was later on decided on 21th December 1948 that the Chev. dealers would sell 25% of their quota of the Government officers through the Provincial Transport Controller, Punjab, which agreement still continues.

(b) Yes. The number, date and price of the cars purchased by hon. Ministers is given below :—

Serial No.	Name	No. of cars purchased	Month of purchase	Price paid	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad	1	Sept., 47	*	
2	Hon. S. Partap Singh Kairon	1	Novr., 47	Rs. 12,870	
3	Hon. Captain Ranjit Singh	1	Feb, 48	Rs. 3 000	Second-hand car (Requisitioned)
4	,, S. Ishar Singh Mujhail	1	March, 48	Rs. 10,000	
5	,, S. Ishar Singh Mujhail	1	July., 50	*	Direct purchase.
6	,, S. Partap Singh Kairon	1	Dec, 48	Rs. 9,576/8/-	
7	,, Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava	1	Octr, 48	Rs. 9 843/15/	
8	,, Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava	1	June., 48	*	Direct purchase.
9	,, S. Joginder Singh Mann	1	July., 49	Rs. 9,050/-/-	
10	,, Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi	1	Novr, 49	*	Direct purchase.
11	,, S. Kartar Singh	1	July., 50	Rs. 16,500/-	
12	,, S. Gurbachan Singh Bajwa.	1	May., 49	*	Direct purchase.

*The figures are not available as the price hah been paid direct to the firm concerned.

SPECIAL GROUPS UNDER THE ALIENATION OF LAND ACT.

*2908. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to State :—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gaur Brahmins are included in the special group B of agriculturists for purposes of the Alienation of the Land Act ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) whether the Government intend to do away with the distinction between the 'A' and 'B' groups of agriculturists under the said Act ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

(a) *First part*: Gaur Brahmans of Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon, Karnal and Ambala districts who were in "B-Separate Groups" have since been placed in "A-District Groups" of these districts.

Second part: Does not arise.

(b) The proposal is receiving the attention of Government but a decision has not been arrived at so far.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is not this classification repugnant to the spirit of the Constitution as has been pointed out by the Government of India or the President of the Indian Republic to the Punjab Government ?

Parliamentry Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram): This matter is *sub-judice*.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does the hon. Parliamentary Secretary understand what "sub judice" means ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Being an LL B. I think I understand the meaning better than the hon. Member does.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that only a few days ago the hon. Chief Minister told this House that this matter was subject of correspondence between the Punjab Government and the Government of India ? If it is so, how can the matter become *sub-judice*?

Parliamentary Secretary : The matter is in the court and is, therefore, *sub judice.*

ALLOTMENT OF HOUSES IN VILLAGE SHERPUR KALAN, DISTRICT LUDHIANA.

*3099. **Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of families, other than those of Hindus residing in village Sherpur Kalan, Tehsil and District Ludhiana ;

(b) whether it is a fact that two houses No. 33 and 72 have been allotted by the Naib Tahsildar, Ludhiana for two Gurdawaras in the village referred to above ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) 62.

(b) House No. 33 has been reserved for Gurdwara with the consent of the allottees according to principle for allotment of evacuee houses in rural area. House No 72 has been allotted to Gurdwara Bawa Budh Dass in lieu of area left by them in Pakistan.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if it is the policy of Government that houses should be allotted for religious institutions in preference to the refugees who badly stand in need of them ?

Minister : Houses are allotted for these institutions when they exceed the requirements and the refugees ask for such allotments.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Did houses in this particular village exceed the requirements that two houses were allotted for Gurdwaras ?

Minister : I do not know the exact position but I can say that this allotment was made in deference to the wishes of the refugees.

REVIEW REGARDING ALLOTMENT OF HOUSES IN RURAL AREAS

*3103. **Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government has issued instructions to the District authorities, not to allow the legal practitioners to appear in Review applications regarding the allotment of houses in rural areas in the State; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : No such instructions disallowing the legal practititoners to appear in Review applications regarding the allotment of houses in rural areas in the State have been issued to the district authorities.

PUBLICATION OF BOOKLETS, PAMPHLETS ETC. BY THE GOVERNMENT.

*3104. **Mehta Ranbir Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the titles of the booklets, pamphlets etc. containing instructions regarding allotment of Houses and land (Rural) published so far by the Publicity Department, Punjab Government, or by the Rehabilitation Department from time to time ;

(b) whether copies of these publications were made available to the District Rehabilitation authorities only or to the allottees as well; if so, through the Publicity Department or through the Patwaris ;

(c) if the publications referred to in part (a) above were made available to the allottees whether this was done through the Publicity Department or through the Patwaris ;

(d) whether the Government has under consideration the publication of one volume consolidating all rules, orders, instructions, enactments etc of the Central and the State Government in connection with allotment; if so, by what time such a volume is expected to be ready ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) Two booklets namely :

(i) Instructions in Uurdu with regard to review and revision of allotment of land and houses ;

(ii) Pamphlet in English regarding the review and revision of allotment of evacuee land and houses; were printed by the Rehabilitation Department.

(b) Copies of instructions in Urdu were supplied to every Revenue official in Punjab and Pepsu. Patwaris were directed to read out and explain these instructions to all the allottees of evacuee land in each village of their circles and hang up a copy of the instructions outside every Patwar-Khana. Copies of this booklet were also made available for sale to the public through approved booksellers @ /2/- per copy. Copies of the pamphlet in English were forwarded for guidance to all the Revenue Officers in Punjab and Pepsu employed on rehabilitation work.

(c) Copies of Urdu Instructions were supplied to all the District Publicity Officers in Punjab for giving them wide publicity and were also made available for sale to the public as mentioned in (b) above.

(d) Displaced persons Land Resettlement Manual containing all the rules and instructions is under print and is expected to be ready shortly.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Does the Government not feel that on account of frequent changes in the allotment rules, this publication has become out of date ?

Minister : No, it has not become out of date.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if no fundamental change has been made in the allotment rules, after the publication of this Manual ?

Minister : No fundamental change has been made.

DEMANDS OF GOVERNMET CLASSICAL AND VERNACULAR TEACHERS IN THE STATE.

*2954. **Shri Ram Sharma:** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state:—

(a) whether any of the demands of the Government Classical and Vernacular Teachers have been accepted by the Government since the last Session of the Assembly; if so, to what extent;

(b) whether any action has been taken to meet the demands of other teachers particularly of the Subordinate Educational Service (A.V. Section)?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand:

(a) Yes, Government have agreed to the following other demands of the Classical and Vernacular Teachers since the last session of the Assembly:—

(i) Fixation of the proportion of 15%,35% and 50% respectively in the three grades of the Classical and Ver. Section for Women teachers;

(ii) Reduction in the period of leave from six to 2½ months for the preparation of examinations; and

(iii) Their request for appointment as Superintendents and Examiners in the Punjab University Examinations.

(b) Yes, the following demands have been accepted:—

(i) Reduction in the period of leave from six to 2½ months for the preparation of examinations, and

(ii) Their request for appointments as Superintendents and Examiners in the University Examinations.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Which demands of the Classical and Vernacular teachers have not been accepted by the Government?

Minister: There were a large number of demands. As I have stated in my reply many of the demands have been accepted. As the

number of demands is very large, I can tell the hon. Member about these on receipt of notice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Has the Government accepted their main demand that their salary should be brought at par with that of English teachers ?

Minister : That is under consideration.

DISTRIBUTION OF MONEY TO PRIVATELY MANAGED COLLEGES IN THE STATE.

*3100· **Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased te state :—

(a) the amount paid to each privately managed college in the State out of the sum reserved for the purpose in the last Budget.

(b) whether the amount has been distributed amongst these institutions so far ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the manner in which the amount has been distributed ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand :

(a) A statement showing the amount paid to each privately managed college is laid on the table †.

(b) Yes. The amount has been distributed to the institutions.

(c) The amount was distributed in the following manner :

		Rs.
(1)	Colleges situated in border areas	— 5,000 each.
(2)	Colleges situated in rural areas	— 5,000 each.
(3)	Women's Colleges	— 3,000 each.
(4)	Three aided colleges which were on the grant-in-aid list.	— 63,000-the usual grant.

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†Kept in the Library.

[Minister for Education]

		Rs.
(i) Khalsa College Amritsar	—	45,000
(ii) Hindu Sabha College, Amritsar.	—	12,000
(iii) D. M. College, Moga.	—	6,000
(5) S. D. College (Lahore) Ambala Cantt.	—	20,000

The balance of Rs. 2,14,000 was distributed to colleges (excluding 3 aided colleges and the S. D. College, Ambala Cantt.) proportionately according to the deficit of these institutions.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Have some funds been proved to the Bhargava Municipal College, Simla ?

Minister : No, it is not included in the list given by me.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is this reply incorrect or the item shown in the Budget as having been allotted to the Bhargava Municipal College is wrong ? Which of the two is wrong ?

Minister : Neither of these is incorrect.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In the Budget quite a heavy amount has been allotted for the Bhargava College while the hon. Minister says that no amount has been given to the College ?

Minister : My friend does not understand the question. These amounts are for the displaced Colleges.

SUPPLY OF MAIZE, JOWAR ETC. SEED TO CULTIVATORS.

*3102. **Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to supply (i) maize (ii) jowar and (iii) bajra for seed purposes to the cultivators in the State ;

(b) the total requirements of seeds intimated by different districts to the Government ;

(c) the stocks of these seeds, if any, with the Government as at present ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand : A statement giving the required information is laid on the table :—†

———

MACHINERY FOR BHAKRA AND NANGAL PROJECTS.

*2884: **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the names and designations of the officers who went abroad to purchase machinery for the Bhakra and Nangal Projects ;

(b) the total amount of money so far spent by the Government on buying machinery for these projects ;

(c) whether the purchases were made by inviting tenders or otherwise ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Prior to partition of Punjab Messrs T. Fo , then Chief Engineer, Irrigation Works, Punjab, and C. L. Handa, then Executive Engineer, went to U. S. A. to obtain machinery for Bhakra Nangal Project from Tennessee Valley Authority Since the partition, no officer proceeded abroad for the purpose of purchase of machinery.

(b) The total amount of money so far spent by Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, on buying machinery for Bhakra Nangal Project is Rs 3,20,05,938.

(c) As a rule, all orders for the purchase of machinery and invariably when the value exceeds Rs. One lakh, are placed on the D. G I. & S. except when the machinery is obtained from the Disposals In all other cases, quotations are invited before the placing of orders.

†Kept in the Library.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The hon Chief Minister has stated that after partition no Engineer was sent abroad by the Government for purchasing machinery. May I konw the purpose for which Sardar Sarup Singh w is sent abroad ?

Chief Minister: No Chief Engineer or other Engineer was sent abroad for purchasing machinery.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: If Sardar Sarup Singh was not sent for purchasing machinery, for what other purpose was he sent abroad ?

Chief Minister: H was sent abroad for studying designs and for other purposes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The hon Chief Minister has stated that machinery worth over three crores of rupees has been purchased by the Government He has also said that, according to the rules, machinery costing more than one lakh of rupees has to be purchased in a prescribed manner. May I know if all the machinery worth over Rs. 3 crores was purchased according to the rules ?

Chief Minister: Yes, this was purchased strictly according to the rules.

MEDICAL AID.

*2886. **Shri Prabodh Chandra:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the amount per head the Government is spending on medical aid in the State ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava. Re. 1/3/9 per patient for the year 1949 Information for 1950 is not yet available.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The hon. Chief Minister has stated that the Government is spending Rs. 1-3-9 per head on account of medical aid in the State. May I know if the salaries of doctors are also included in this amount or it represents the cost of medicines only?

Chief Minister: The total amount spent on medical aid has been divided by the number of patients.

Shrimati Sita Devi: May I know if this expenditure on the patients includes both the expenses of medicines and their diet ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied that the total medical aid has been divided by the number of patients.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the medical aid given by the Government is sufficient to meet the expences of medicines and diet during these days of high prices ?

Chief Minister : Yes, both are being supplied to the patients.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : My question is whether this medical aid of Rs. 1/3/9 also includes the expenditure on the salaries of the officers besides the expenditure on medicines and diet for the patients ?

Chief Minister : This includes all the expenditure that is incurred on medical aid.

REPRESENTATION FROM GOVERNMENT SUBORDINATE SERVICES UNION.

*2923. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any representation from the Government Subordinate Services Union ;

(b) their demands as set out in the representation and the steps taken by Government to meet them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes.

(b) The following demands were put forward by the Federation :—

(a) that any independent commission be set up to examine the present rates of pay of Civil Servants in this State and to revise them to ensure their subsistence.

(b) That the existing rates of Dearness Allowance be at least doubled and merged into pay.

(c) That Simla Allowance be doubled.

[Chief Minister]

(d) That Temporary Allowance equal to two increments may be allowed in the case of those drawing pay less than Rs. 100/-p. m.

(e) That the orders contained in the Punjab Government letter No. 445-FPW-50/1857, dated the 6th July, 1950, be cancelled and Government Servants who had made their own arrangements for accommodation, be allowed to draw House Rent Allowance at the old rates.

(f) That an ordinance be issued, so that the House Rent payable to Landlords be paid by Government Servants in monthly instalments instead of in half yearly instalments.

(g) A Welfare Fund may be established by Government for needy Government servants who should be able to draw loans in case of necessity and repay them in easy instalments

(h) That separate room for recreation be allotted to Government Servants to sit during the recess hours.

While Government fully appreciate the loyalty and devotion shown by their Government Servants, in spite of their difficulties, in these hard days, they can not implement these measures in view of the present state of finances.

As regards item (f) it will be appreciated that Government cannot in such matters discriminate between Government Servants and others.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the contents of the letter to which he has referred?

Chief Minister : I have given the reference and I cannot give the contents just now.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Government after receiving this representation from the Subordinate Services Union sent a letter to it that it cannot approach any Member of the Assembly in this connection ?

Chief Minister : There is a Civil Service rule that Government servants cannot approach the Heads of Departments through any outsider.

REPRESENTATION FROM CHAPRASIS UNION.

*2924. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government has recently received any representation from the Chaprasis Union ;

(b) their demands as contained in their representation and the steps, if any, taken by the Government to meet them ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : (a) and (b) Government have received more than one representation from the Punjab Peons Association during the last year or so. The last related to the grant of increased dearness allowance to Class IV Government servants. In view of the facilities that are being provided at Simla for supply of necessities at cheaper rates, Government have been unable to accept the demand.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know the percentage of cheapness in the matter of rates at which Government servants buy things at Simla ?

Chief Minister : I have no definite knowledge of rates. I can, however, say this much that the rate of wheat here is less by 4 annas a maund and vegetables are being given at no profit no loss basis. It is also being tried that other commodities like Ghee may also be supplied at cheaper rates.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know if the cheapness effected by the opening of cheap shops is sufficient to remove the hardship of the Government servants ?

Chief Minister : It is a question of opinion.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know if a deputation wanted to wait upon the Government on behalf of Class IV Government servants, but it was not granted permission to do so ?

Chief Minister : I have received no such communication.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know if any representation in this connection was received by the Chief Secretary or any other head in the Secretariat ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the steps taken by the Government in connection with the numerous representations of peons in which they stated that they could not make their both ends meet with their meagre salary during these times of high prices ?

Chief Minister : The grades of Class IV Government servants were revised as recently as 1949.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if any allowance for clothes is also given to the Government servants along with supplying them commodities at cheaper rates ?

Chief Minister : It is a request for action.

Deputy Speaker : I would ask Shrimati Sita Devi to put her question after I have called her name.

Shri Virendra : Why should she be afraid when her own kith and kin are ruling ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Why is it that the salaries of the peons of the Central Government are more than those of the peons of the Punjab Government ?

Chief Minister : The grades of the Central Government are better then those given by any of the State Governments. Any State Government or for that matter Punjab Government cannot afford to give as high grades as are given by the Central Government.

REFUND OF FINES TO POLITICAL WORKERS IN THE STATE.

***2955. Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State :—

(a) the amount of fines refunded to political workers in the State since the last Assembly Session ;

(b) the steps which the Government is taking to refund the fines of such political workers whose records are not available ;

(c) the reasons for not refunding the fine of Vaid Mangli Ram, Jhajjar, in spite of the orders of the Government to this effect together with the date of the order ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Rs. 4,000/-/-.

(b) The claims of such political sufferers are referred to an *adhoc* committee for verification and report.

(c) orders for the refund of fine to Rao Mangli Ram were issued in August, 1949. He received the payment in January or February, 1951.

Shri prabodh Chandra : While replying to part (b) of the question, the hon. Chief Minister has stated that the papers are sent for verification. I want to know the agency through which these verifications are made for refunding the fines ?

Chief Minister : The verifications are made according to the claims that are made. For instance, if it is a claim for the refund of a fine, the claimant is asked to produce some documentary evidence in support of his claim. But if neither any documentary evidence is produced nor any records are available, the fines are refunded on the submission of affidavits.

SALES TAX.

*2985. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the changes Government contemplates to make in the Sales Tax under the new policy and instructions of the Central Government ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The East Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948 is in accord with the new Constitution and policy and instructions of the Central Government and does not call for any amendment as a result thereof.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know if this is a fact that sales tax is levied on a Tandur or Dhaba a country restaurant, as soon as a few chairs are placed in it ?

Chief Minister : It does not arise out of this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. Is it for the Chair or the Chief Minister to decide whether a supplementary arises out of the question or not ?

Deputy Speaker : That was the opinion of the hon. Chief Minister.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I want your ruling on the point whether it is for the Chair or for the Chief Minister to decide about the relevancy of a particular supplementary ?

Chief Minister : The main question relates to the changes proposed to be made in the Sales Tax Act, under the new policy of the Central Government. I have replied that whatever amendments have been made in the Sales Tax Act, have been made according to the new Constitution of India. The exemptions from Sales Tax are given according to the policy of the Central Government. Any supplementary for further details does not arise out of this question.

Deputy Speaker : Is the hon. Member satisfied with the reply ?

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : No, Madam, I am not satisfied at all, I consider the question to be in relation to the change in the Sales Tax.

Deputy Speaker : What do you wish to ask ?

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I wish to know whether by taking off the chairs and tables the hotels can be exempted from the Sales Tax; if so, does the Government not feel the desirability of introducing changes in the rules so as to exempt the hotels also ?

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should study the question and think for himself whether this supplementary arises or not.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Madam, in my opinion this supplementary does arise out of this question.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether the Government of Punjab is aware of the fact that it is a policy of the Government of India not to impose any Sales Tax on the necessities of life ?

Chief Minister : No such instructions have been issued by the Central Government. Of course, a list of such articles is being prepared by the Government and whenever such list is ready we will consider it.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know the views of the Government on the matter whether sales tax should be imposed on the necessities of life or not ?

Chief Minister : There are certain articles upon which sales tax can be and has been imposed while there are others which may be and have been exempted.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Has the Government any authority to impose sales tax even on air and water ? (*Laughter.*)

Chief Minister : It is a question of opinion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Does the Government intend exempting fodder from sales tax ?

Chief Minister : It is a request for action. Moreover, it does not arise out of this question

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. May I know whether it is for the Chair to decide whether supplementary arises out of a question or it is for the hon Ministers ? I wish to maintain the dignity of the Chair. I want your ruling on this point, so that we may not have to ask hon. Chief Minister ag in and again.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should study the question in order to see whether a supplementary arises or not.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, it is only two days back that you took the r sponsibility of occupying this Chair. I beg to submit that you should consult the Secretary on this point whether it is for the Chair to decide this issue or not. (*Hon. Members* : Withdraw, withdraw.)

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should better withdraw these words.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I can only speak if the hon. Deputy Speaker takes her seat. Madam, my submission was that your dignity is the dignity of the House. That is why I wanted to have your ruling on this point.

Deputy Speaker : I don't want to enter into arguments here. Even if I have to ask the hon. Members I won't consider it below my dignity because the hon. Members themselves have given me this position. I do not like to waste the time of the House. So I would request the hon. Members to speak to the point.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order. If it becomes difficult for an hon. Member to decide whether a supplementary question is relevant or not, is it for the Chair or for the hon. Ministers to decide this matter ?

Deputy Speaker : Of course, it is for the Chair to see the relevancy of a supplementary question But I would request the hon. Members to put only such questions as are relevant. I admit that it is not the duty of the hon. Ministers to give their opinions on the relevancy of questions.

Minister For Public Works : On a point of order, Madam. Only a short while ago you asked the hon. Member to withdraw the remarks he made So far he has not withdrawn them. He should be asked to withdraw.

Deputy Speaker : Yes, the hon. Member should withdraw the remarks.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, I am prepared to withdraw them even a hundred times. (*Laughter.*)

SUBMISSION OF APPEALS, MEMORIALS, ETC. TO THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, ETC.

*986. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that officers and subordinates in services are not allowed to submit advance copies of their appeals, memorials and representations to the Heads of

their Departments, Government and hon. Ministers concerned ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in various instances such appeals, memorials and representations are either withheld or considerably delayed by the Heads of offices and Heads of Deptts, who either deny justice or cause harassment by belated forwarding of such papers to Government ;

(c) whether it is a fact that under the existing Appeal and Punishment Rules in cases where original punishment is awarded by Government themselves, no further appeal lies against such order by the affected Government employee ;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the Procedural Rules for the working of the Public Service Commission of this State, it is laid down that in forwarding cases to the said Commission, the Government or the Punishing Authority shall not make any recommendation or give any indication of the proposed punishment, the idea being not to prejudice the opinion of the Public Service Commission ;

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that Assistants, Superintendents, and Secretaries in Government Secretariat and Heads of Departments record their recommendations on the punishments for the approval of the Public Service Commission in all disciplinary cases ;

(f) in how many cases during the years 1948 and 1949, Heads of Departments and Government themselves made their recommendations of the award of specific punishments and submitted the cases to the Public Service Commission merely for their approval ;

(g) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in the cases so decided ?

The hon. Dr Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) No

(b) N[illegible] such cases, Heads of Departments are required to submit to Government half-yearly

[Chief Minister]

returns showing the duration of pendency of such cases in their offices and the details of the memorials withheld by them.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

(f) None.

(g) Does not arise.

EXTENSION OF JASRANA MINOR IN HARYANA DIVISION.

*2944. **Shri Ram Sharma**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether the extension of Jasrana Minor in Haryana Division has been sanctioned by the Government and necessary provision made in the budget ;

(b) which villages are to be benefited by this extension and how much land is expected to be irrigated thereby;

(c) whether the zamindars concerned will be required to help in this scheme; if so, in what way ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) Yes.

(b) 4 villages viz. Bhainsru Kalan, Dakora, Rohad and Jaswar Kheri will be benefited by this scheme. Area likely to be irrigated is 1210 acres.

(c) No.

NEW CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH.

*3121. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh**: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the date by which the Capital at Chandigarh will be ready for the shifting of the Government offices to the new Capital ?

The hon Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: It is not possible at present to state the date by which the Capital near Chandigarh will be ready. As already stated in reply to Starred Assembly Question No.2555, during the autumn session of the Assembly, the Government offices will be shifted to the New Capital as soon as offices and residential buildings are ready for occupation.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

GOVERNMENT CENTRAL WORKSHOP, AMRITSAR.

*3156. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer to my starred question No.2669 put on 1-3-1951 :—

(a) whether the fourteen gazetted holidays with pay allowed to the workers according to the new orders referred to in that answer will or will not be deducted from the workers' earned leave, under the Factories Act ;

(b) the date when the order relating to the grant of 14 gazetted holidays with pay to workers in the Central Workshop at Amritsar was passed ;

(c) whether he will lay a copy of the order referred to above on the table ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) They will not be deducted.

(b) On 26-8-1949.

(c) A copy of the orders is placed on the table.†

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : The copy of the order that has been laid on the table indicates that the rules were framed on 26th August 1949. But since the representation by the workers of the Central Workshop was submitted in the month of September, do I take it that their grievances regarding the gazetted holidays still remain unredressed ?

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†Kept in the Library

Chief Minister: I have referred to those rules which were in force then. Afterwards, Government thought of making certain amendments in them. As a matter of fact, certain amendments in this connection have been forwarded to the Accountant General for approval. So, as soon as his approval is received, the amended rules will be enforced

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us whether the enjoyment of these gazetted holidays is restricted to the workers of the Central Workshop only or whether labourers working in the P.W.D. or Irrigation Department can also avail of the benefits ?

Chief Minister: This question relates to the workers of the Central Workshop, Amritsar and these facilities are meant for them only.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar: May I know how long will it take the Government to receive the approved proposals from the Accountant General and when will the amended rules be enforced ?

Chief Minister: I cannot say how long it will take; but this much I can say that we will request the Accountant General to expedite the despatch of his approval of the proposed rules. So, as soon as they are received, they will be put into force.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know why invidious treatment is being meted out to the labourers, working on the roads and canals under the Government, in the matter of enjoyment of gazetted holidays ?

Chief Minister: It is so because the labourers working on the roads are not permanent employees of the Government. They are employed on daily wages.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that a section of labourers working on the roads is under the permanent employment of the Government? If so, may I know whether these labourers will be allowed to enjoy the same privileges ?

Chief Minister: For this I require a fresh notice.

———

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, before you permit the hon. Chief Minister to move his Demand, I would like to make a submission and that is this. Last week two notices of an adjournment motion regarding the embittered communal atmosphere in the State were given to the hon. Chief Minister by myself and the hon. Member Shri Ram Sharma. The hon. Speaker was pleased to promise to fix some time for its discussion on the floor of the House, after having consultations with the hon. Leader of the House. I would request you to fix the time and inform the House so that the hon. Members may prepare themselves for the discussion.

Deputy Speaker : I have the fullest sympathy with the hon. Member and I quite agree that largest measure of time should be allotted for discussion of the adjournment motion But I regret I cannot fix any time during the Budget Session for this purpose, particularly to-day when an important Demand like the Rehabilitation is going to be discussed. If the hon. Member wants me to accompany him and seek the advice of the hon. Chief Minister on this subject, I will have no objection.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I beg to move —

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,48,62,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of Miscellaneous.

Deputy Speaker : Demand moved—

> That a sum not exceeding Rs 1,48,62,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of Miscellaneous.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I beg to move-

> That the item of Rs. 25,34,460 on account of 57/- Miscellaneous—L. Expenditure—on displaced persons, be reduced by Rs 100./-

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

Madam, the work assigned to the Department of Rehabilitation is of vital importance. Just as the duty of the Police is to maintain law and order in the State and that of the Civil Supplies Department is to provide maximum facilities to the people in securing necessities of life, the duty of the Rehabilitation Department is to resettle the displaced persons. But I am pained to mention that this Department has surpassed other departments in the matter of evils like corruption. Previously, the Police had earned a bad reputation for taking bribes. But when during the World War the Civil Supplies Department was created, it outdid the Police in the matter of accepting illegal gratification. Then, after the partition, the Department of Rehabilitation came into existence, but it beat even the Civil Supplies Department in the evil of corruption. (*Laughter*). I have serious apprehensions that if any other new department is established, it will steal a march over the Rehabilitation Department in this matter. For the present, I am concerned with the Rehabilitation Department and its working. Now the question arises as to why and how this evil of corruption crept into this Department. I think that the main cause of this evil is that the officers serving in this department do not feel themselves under any obligation to observe law of the land. I have got proofs in my possession to substantiate this point. Government has framed a rule regarding rehabilitation of refugees to the effect that a locality, having a population of at least 18,000 persons and situated within a distance of two miles from a certain town, will be declared a suburban area. This area will be allotted to the displaced persons coming from Pakistan. Now there is a village 'Bhaura' in the district of Ludhiana. I have visited that village. You will be surprised that this village has not been declared as a suburban area despite the fact that it is situated within the municipal limits of two miles of the city of Ludhiana. This has been done due to the reason that a Head of the Department wants his own relatives, who belong to Tehsil Chunian to be resettled in this village. Now I would like to illustrate the situation of that village. Madam, you will see that my seat and that of my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh are co-distant from the seat of the hon. Chief Minister. Now, if the seat of my hon. Friend is declared a suburban area and mine is left out, then this decision will not be based on any justice. Similarly, the village 'Bhaura' has been separated from all the adjoining villages which have been declared as suburban areas. This has been done, because, as I have already stated, a high officer is interestsd and wants

to benefit his relatives. I think this is most improper on the part of the officer, who is no less than the Head of a Department, to do things like that. Such an act, on the one hand, results in injustice to the people and, on the other, it brings Government into disrepute.

Now, I would like to throw light on some other irregularities committed by the officials of this department I had made a mention of this fact during the discussion on the General Adminstration and I would like to repeat the same now also. The Department of Rehabilitation changed its order six times which it had passed in connection with the allotment of land to a refugee in village Bala Chak, District Amritsar. Ordinarily under the law, there are three stages in which a case has to pass. The first is the lower court, the second is the Appellate Court and the third is the authority which reviews the appeal. But it is a matter of surprise that the department of Rehabilitation has changed its own order six times thus violating the established practice in the State. I ask how far it is fair and proper to do so? But the matter does not stop here. After having altered the order six times, the officer concerned has stated that the final decision in the matter is yet to come and it will be taken on review. This is not a hypothetical example. I have stated facts which have been supplied to me by the Government itself in reply to one of my Assembly questions.

In spite of there being no order of allocation in favour of Captain Kartar Singh he was allotted land in village Verka district Amritsar.

Deputy Speaker : I may remind the hon. Member that a time-limit of 20 minutes is reasonable as I would like to give half an hour to the hon. Minister for replying to the debate.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : On enquiry, I was told that he was allotted land as he is a local colonist and owns large immovable property in Amritsar district. But the real fact is that his son Sardar Hardial Singh P.C.S.is holding the post of Additional Registrar in the Rehabilitation Department and was posted prior to this as a Magistrate in Amritsar. It appears that rules and regulations are not strictly observed in this Department. Sometime back, I wrote to the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation, that Sardar Rajinder Singh, whose home district is Amritsar, should not be posted there because there was every likelihood of various irregularities being committed if he remained posted there. The result of this was that

[Sarda Sajjan Singh]

he showed undue favour to his relatives and helped them in the allotment of land in village Ghariala, and thus broke all records of irregularities. When I went to that village I noticed that the records were tampered with. I gave a notice of question during the last session to know why land had been allotted to them and I was informed that it was because of the fact that they were local sitting allottees. When I enquired as to when they had submitted their applications for allotment of land, then the Government gave a reply that the papers were not traceable. Subsequently, I saw the list of sitting allottees and found that their names were not contained in that list even. The Rehabilitation Department has earned a bad name for not observing rules and regulations. It appears that the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation has given full autonomy to the officers of this department. If such like irregularities are allowed to continue, then how can we expect that this department can function efficiently and effectively? How can the poor people expect justice? How can the law have its course when the highly-placed officers of this department are flagrantly violating it to gain their personal ends. This is not all. On the one hand, general public is suffering from housing shortage but, on the other hand, influential persons have been allotted housesone-in a village and the other in an urban area. In order to remove this irregularity, I gave a notice of question but it was postponed. In this connection, I will cite an example. Sardar Chanan Singh Jathedar, Orara, has occupied four houses in village Patti. These houses were allotted to Sardar Buhar Singh, Member District Board, who had also taken the possession of these houses through a local Magis rate. But the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, passed an order that the possession was illegal. By virtue of this order, Sardar Buhar Singh had to surrender two houses which were again given over to Sardar Chanan Singh. I had a personal talk with the Deputy Commissioner on this subject and brought to his notice that double allotment had been made in several cases whereas many people had not got even one house for then to live in. But he had no satisfactory reply to give me. Moreover, it is strange that the Government has decided that the big allottees should be given good houses. Thousands of such allotments have been made though the possession has not yet been given. But I fail to understand the reason for not following this rule in the case of Sardar Chanan Singh Orara. One Sardar Inder Singh, who owns 60 acres of land, has been allotted a kacha house in village Daudpur, tehsil Patti. Similarly, one Nand

Lal, who owns 55 acres of land, has also been allotted a kacha house, while on the other hand, Sardar Bahal Singh and Sardar Chanan Singh have been allotted pucca houses although they are owners of only 37 acres of land each. To justify these allotments, the Government has come forward with the plea that temporary possession of the allottees has been taken into consideration. But the orders that have been issued to this effect are that the possession of the houses will not be taken into consideration. It only shows that favouritism is rampant in this department and these examples will make it clear that no rules and regulations are being observed by this department. Only those people who wield power and influence can get benefit from this depaitment and the poor people aie hopelessly neglected. I know of an instance where a pacca house had to be allotted in village Talwandi district Ferozepore. There were two brothers who were jointly owners of 100 acres of land- The district authorities treated them as owners of one unit and promised to allot that house in favour of two brothers by ignoring the interests of another person who owned 70 acres of land. In village Daudpur also, the area of land possessed by two real brothers was considered as one unit and they were allotted a good house on this basis although such a procedure is contrary to the rules. It is obviously a case of favouritism. In fact, law has these days become a pliant tool in the hands of the executive. Besides this, there is another evil that I have noticed in the administration of this State. So far as the appellate courts or the reviewing courts are concerned, they always serve the parties concerned in a case that comes before them with summons informing them of the date and place of hearing.

Deputy Speaker : Please resume your seat now. Your time is up.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Kindly let me complet the sentence.

Deputy Speaker : No, please. It would be better if you stop here.

Deputy Speaker : Demand under consideration, motion moved—

That the item of Rs. 25,34,460/ on account of 57-Misceallameous-L-Expend ture on displaced persons be reduced by Rs. 100/-0

S ri Bhagat Ram Chodha [Jullundur General, Rural] (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The administration of our State is just so, so.

[Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha]

If exists in name only. Practically speaking, it is doing nothing. If it were worth its name, the State would not witness these quarrels between Sikhs and Harijans and between Sikhs and Hindus. As are those at the helm of affairs, so are their subordinates, I mean, persons in the services. From patwari to the highest officer, no body is prepared to work in an honest manner. He will have to be offered a bribe before he will be willing to do the smallest thing even though it forms part of his officials duties. However qualified a person, he cannot get any job without a recommendation from an hon. Minister. Even then, many a time the head of the office has to weigh between the recommendation of one Minister and that of the other while making the selection

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, the demand under discussion is '57-Miscellaneous.' Is the hon. Member relevant ? Can he discuss General Administration, Police or the general policies of the Government ?

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should be relevant.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Madam, I am not saying anything irrelevant. I want to discuss the working of all the departments which come under this head. Our Ministers are so hard-hearted that they refuse to see members of the public who want to voice their grievances before them. I don't know the stuff they are made of. As regards their ability and qualifications, I would not say anything except reciting a few well-known verses after making a little alteration in them.

हम हुये तुम हुये कि मीर हुये
तेरी जुलफ के सब असीर हुये
हम ने बी ऐ किया न कर्लक बने
जो मिडल पास थे वह वज़ीर हुये ।

ਹਮ ਹੂਏ ਤੁਮ ਹੂਏ ਕਿ ਮੀਰ ਹੂਏ
ਤੇਰੀ ਜ਼ੁਲਫ਼ ਕੇ ਸਭ ਅਸੀਰ ਹੂਏ ।
ਹਮ ਨੇ ਬੀ. ਏ. ਕੀਆ ਨ ਕਲ਼ਰਕ ਬਨੇ
ਜੋ ਮਿਡਲ ਪਾਸ ਥੇ ਵੋਹ ਵਜ਼ੀਰ ਬਨੇ ।

When I think of the rule of this Government I am reminded of the Hindi couplet :—

देख निठुरता निर्दयता सब के दिल टूटे

दंग हुआ दस शीश कंस के छक्के छूटे ॥

ਦੇਖ ਨਿਠੁਰਤਾ ਨਿਰਦੈਤਾ ਸਭ ਕੇ ਦਿਲ ਟੂਟੇ

ਦੰਗ ਹੂਆ ਦਸ ਸ਼ੀਸ਼ ਕੰਸ ਕੇ ਛੱਕੇ ਛੂਟੇ ।

I would ask those at the helm of affairs to rule in a just manner or leave the 'gaddi'. It is a matter for great regret that the administration has gone worse than even the times of the British Government. Corruption has increased to such an extent that one has to bribe every official to get a thing done. Favouritism is rampant in the bus services run by the Government. People who apply for posts of drivers are asked to appear for test After passing the test, they are asked to work without pay for sometime but when vacancies occur they are turned out and the nominees of the Ministers are appointed to the vacant posts. Members of this House cry themselves hoarse urging the Government to make the administration pure but the Ministers ignore their suggestions considering them mere nonsense (*bakwas*).

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is the word *bakwas* parliamentary ?

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Madam, I withdraw it. Formerly, we had at least this hope that some action would be taken on matters raised by us through questions. But now this hope has also vanished and our voice is a voice in wilderness.

Shri Virendra (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing West Multan, Division, General Rural). (*Hindi*) : Madam, the demand which is before this House relates to a nnmber of departments and asks for a sum of rupees one crore and forty-eight lakhs. As it relates to so many departments, it is not possible to do full justice to it in the small space of time which is at my disposal. Still I shall do my best to place my views before the House about the various d partments as briefly as I can. I wish to draw the attention of the Government particularly to one department which forms part of this demand and which can helps u in augmenting our revenues.

[Shri Virendra]

But, unfortunately, I find that a good deal of corruption, jobbery and nepotism is prevailing in this department.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should speak on Rehabilitation Department. That is the department which is to be discussed. And then the hon. Member himself, being a displaced person, would like to speak on it.

Shri Virendra : I wanted to discuss the Transport Department. I came prepared for that. Anyhow, I do not mind switching myself on to the Rehabilitation Depatment. To begin with, I must withdraw my charges of corruption and jobbery as I never directed them towards this department. So far as this department is concerned, I can, on the basis of figures before me, say that it has done very useful work and has to a very great extent succeeded in its objects. But this should not be taken to mean that the rehabilitation problem has been satisfactorily solved and nothing more remains to be done. I repeat that the Government has done quite a good deal for our rehabilitation and not to recognize this fact will tantamount to ingratitude on our part. But this does not entitle us to shut our eyes to what still remains to be done. We have been faced with two varieties of rehabilitation, namely, the rural rehabilitation and the urban rehabilitation. So far as the former is concerned, I am of the opinion that the Government has done quite a good deal in this connection. This should not mean that I grudge anything that may have been done for the good of the rural people. On the other hand, I ardently wish that greater facilities should be afforded to them so that they are enabled to bring more land under the plough and make this State a granary not only of this State but of the whole of the country. What I wished to convey was that the scheme of the rural rehibilitation had been more successful than the scheme for the urban rehabilitation. This thing was admitted by His Excellency the Governor not only in his recent Address but even in wo or three more Addresses which he delivered in the past. Here are some figures before me which will illustrate my point. A sum of rupees one crore and 95 lakhs has been advanced

to the rural people by way of loans. The details of these loans are as follows :

Loans for building houses in rural areas :	—	1,00,00,000
Loans for power pumps	—	10,00,000
Loans for boring of wells —	—	15,00,000
Loans for tubewells —	—	30,00,000
Loans for tractors —	—	20,00,000
Loans for purchase of bullocks —	—	20,00,000
Total Rural Loans	—	1,95,00,000

This shows that the Government has sufficiently realized its duty towards the ruralites. I shall be mighty glad if it does more for them. But I may be forgiven when I say that it has given quite a step-motherly treatment to the urbanites. They have been very badly treated. Even adequate living accommodation is being denied to them. I find that at some places three or four families have been thrust in a room or two. It really pains me to say that some days ago nine or ten families which were living in a house in Garha, a small village near Jullundur, were ordered to vacate the house as it had been allotted to some other individual. The belongings of these families were forcibly placed outside in the rain and about forty or fifty persons of those families were put to trouble to please only one individual or a family. This is the condition which the urbanites are in. And then nobody has any sympathy for them if they make bold to register their complaints in any quarter. They are told that orders are orders and have to be obeyed. I may here tell this House that this state of things will not be tolerated for very long. No Government, whether it is the Central Government or the State Government, can keep itself in the saddle if it fails to solve the problems of its people. No Government should ever labour under a misunderstanding that it can carry on its affairs without the active help of the people. If the Government disregards the feelings of the people it is sure to jeopardize its own existence. At present I find that a vast number of our displaced brethren are not getting a fair deal and I should not be guilty of an exaggeration if I say that in case things are allowed to

[Shri Virendra]

remain where they are, we may be heading towards a revolution which might overthrow or liquidate all Governments, Ministries and Administrations.

I am saying these things as a friend and well-wisher of the Government. This problem of rehabilitation is so important that if the Government succeeds in solving it satisfactorily, they will not only have performed one of their most urgent tasks but they will thereby enable the people of this State to stand on their own legs Most of the difficulties of the Government will end with the solution of this problem. The displaced persons today have neither any work nor houses to live in. How long can they be expected to go on living in these conditions? Their patience is sure to be exhausted one day. If the Government is anxious to gauge the real feelings of the people, the hon. Ministers should go among these people and hear their grievances. In this connection, the thing which needs immediate attention of the Government is the acute housing problem. Everywhere the displaced persons complain that they have not been given houses. The Government on the other hand tells that they have constructed houses but the displaced persons do not come forward to purchase these. Only recently a Bill was passed by the House giving permission to the Government to sell the houses constructed by it to non-refugees as these could not be sold to the displaced persons. In the towns as well as villages, people complain of scarcity of houses. In the villages also, three or four families are living in single rooms. When the men are in the room, the women have to stay out and when the women are inside the men have to keep out. There is no proper arrangement for the education of children. Most of the displaced persons have no means of livelihood. I shall ask the Government to pay immediate attention to this most urgent problem.

The other thing which needs immediate attention of the Government is the urban rehabilitation. Many people are still living in the camps and they have nothing to do. I am not in favour of free rations being given to these persons for long, but it is the duty of the Government to provide some employment for these persons. If all these people are given some work to do, it will lead to prosperity of the State.

The third thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is with regard to the rural rehabilitaion. Rural people

have been given lands and have also been given taccavi loans but still there is wide spread dis-satisfaction among them. What is the cause of this dis satisfaction? They complain that the Government officers do not treat them properly. Unfortunately, our officers have not been able to change their mentality. Instead of regarding themselves as servants of the people after the attainment of freedom, they still consider themselves as rulers. If our hon. Chief Minister takes pride in calling himself a servant of the people, why should the Government officers also not behave in the same manner? The displaced persons are entitled to more sympathy from these people because they are faced with many hardships and it should be regarded as the duty of the Government to understand their hardships.

Then, Madam, as I said yesterday also, the displaced students were given loans by the Government but in most of the cases they are not in a position to repay these. In view of their difficulties, I shall request the Government to grant remission of these loans. I am thankful to you, Madam, for providing me an opportunity of expressing my views on this important subject and in the end I shall again request the Government to tackle this problem sympathetically, because if this problem is solved, most of the difficulties of the State will be over.

Sardar Man Singh Jathedar (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly, representing Sheikhupura West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): I beg to submit that a great injustice has been done to us in the matter of rehabilitation. Evacuee lands were distributed for various purposes. On some of these, model towns have been constructed while others have been sold as building sites Some of the displaced persons had to pay sixteen or seventeen thousand rupees for purchasing houses. Some lands in the urban areas have been reserved by the Rehabilitation Department. Factories have been set up on some evacuee lands while a quite large number of these have been distributed among Forest Department and Garden Colony Department. Most of the valuable lands have been reserved by the Rehabilitation Department while others have been sold to the people. In the cities and towns too, all the good houses are being used for purposes other than for dwelling. Only the worthless houses have been allotted to the displaced persons. I owned five houses in the West Punjab These were situated at Chak Ambo, Chuharkana, Nankana Sahib and other places. In this State

[Sardar Man Singh]

I have not been allotted a single house for my residence. I am putting up in the house of another gentleman. The Government should provide accommodation to all those persons who had to abandon their houses in Pakistan.

Then, Madam, various types of cuts have been imposed. Not only has the Government imposed a cut in the matter of allotment of rural lands but even our food ration has been reduced. Not only these cuts are unjustified, but I feel that we should be given houses of the same type which we had to abandon.

Pandit Faqir Chand (Ex-member, West Punjab Assembly representing West Lahore Division, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, the subject of rehabilitation, which we are discussing today, is so important that on its satisfactory solution depends not only the future of this State but of the whole country. If our displaced brethren, whose number runs into lakhs, are properly rehabilitated, most of the difficulties of our Government will be over and the Punjab will have a bright future. I agree with my hon. Friend Shri Virendra that rural persons have been rehabilitated to a large extent but I feel that that work also is still incomplete. Not only huge sums have to be offered in the form of illegal gratification in the matter of allottment of lands, but I find that if one brother has been allotted land in Ferozepur district the other has been rehabilitated in Hissar. In this manner, members of the same family have been scattered at different places. In spite of the fact that the Government engaged thousands of person in this Department, there are many defects in the work done by it. A large number of displaced land-owners are roaming about idly from one place to another Sometimes they go to the Patwaris, then they have to go to the Naib Tehsildars and again to the Tehsildars. If the hon. Ministers willingly close their eyes to facts it is a different matter but I am sure that if a proper enquiry is instituted, it will be found that a large number of persons connected with the allotment of lands accepted bribes. As a matter of fact, no body could get anything done without greasing the palm of one person or another.

Through you, Madam, I want to point out to the Government that it should enquire into this matter and the officials who have exploited the miseries of the refugees should be punished. Those poor people could not bring with them even their utensils Whatever little

amount of gold or silver they managed to bring with them has gone to the pockets of public servants, nay, masters. I myself heard Patwaris and Naib-Tehsildars talking among themselves that this was their most lucrative season during the period of 30 years. There has never been so much corruption as has been practised in this Department of Rehabilitation. Besides this, I want to submit that if the appeals which are now pending before this Department in connection with the allotments of land are not speedily decided, not only the refugees will continue to go about from place to place but the food problem will also become all the more serious. Brothers who are now allotted land in different districts should be allotted land in the same district at the same places. The position at present is that one brother has been allotted land in Karnal district while the other brother has been allotted land in some other district. This has resulted in severe inconvenience to the people which should be removed.

Then, Madam, it has been said that large amounts are being expended by way of giving scholarships and stipends to the refugee children. But the fact is that the aid given in this form really amounts to zero. We find that refugee children are going without any education to-day. These are the children whose parents had high hopes of them at one time. But now those people cannot even make their both ends meet. How can they give education to their children? I, therefore, request the Government to spend money for this purpose generously and to fix permanent scholarships for the refugee students. The position today is that whatever aid has been given has gone into the pockets of the managers and headmasters of the schools. The scholarships which were meant for the students did not actually reach them. The Government should pay special atttention towards this matter. Besides, the amount earmarked for this purpose is quite inadequate. If our Government were to stop filling the pockets of its big officers by giving them promotions, the money so saved could be utilised for the rehabilitation of these poor people. In this way, the people will praise and bless the Government and the State will also be able to go ahead. There are a number of departments in which promotions are unreasonably being given to the officers. For instance, there is the Transport Department.

De[illegible] Speaker: [illegible] should speak on the Rehabilitation [illegible]

Pandit Faqir Chand : I want to submit, Madam, that there are officers who got only Rs. 350 before the partition but who are now getting Rs. 1500 per mensem. If this money had been spent on the rehabilitation of the refugees, it would have been m ch better

Minister for Revenue : The officer to whom the hon. Member is referring was appointed during th time of Shri Bhim Sen Sachar.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Whether it was Shri Sachar or Giani Ji, who did such a wrong thing, it was objectionable. Shri Sachar might have app inted him on Rs. 1100 per mensem ; but Giani Ji conf rmed him on Rs. 1500 per mensem.

Deputy Speaker : I have not called you to speak on Shri Sachar or Giani Ji. I have called upon you to speak on Rehabilitation De artment.

Pandit Faqir Chand : Then, Madam, I draw your attention to another matter. The refugees, when came to this side, wanted to get work at any cost. This was commendable. They got the factories after giving high bids in the auctions. But now they are in difficulty because they cannot pay high rents to the Government I would like to point out that the Government should not make it a commercial proposition Those people are now being asked to pay the rents, otherwise they would be evicted from those factories after cancelling their allotments. The Government should fix reasonable rents which they are in a position to pay. The allotments should not b cancelled so that they may continue to earn their livelihood in this way How can they fill the coffers of the Government when they are not themselves getting enough to make their both ends meet The hon. Ministers should pay attention to this fac and redu e the rents which are too high for the allottees.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh (Ex Member West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Hindi*) : Madam, so far as this Department of Rehabilitation is concerned, it has been criticised a good deal by the previous speakers. But all the hon. Members have left out one important aspect of this question of rehabilitation of refugees If an enquiry is held into the conduct of the officers who have been responsible for the distribution grnts of taccavi loans, *vis a vis* Harijan refugees, I am sure they cannot be declared innocent. I would like to ask the Government as

to how much financial aid in the form of loans and grants has been given in the cities to the urban people, how much has been given to the rural people and how much to the Harijans.

In my opinion, step-motherly treatment has been accorded to the Harijans. They have not been given any appreciable help by the Government. It is strange that while for businessmen and urbanites there is need for giving loans amounting to ten thousand rupees for building factories, etc., and for the agriculturists there is need for providing them with houses, taccavi loans and grants etc., no attention is being paid to the need of the poor Harjans. No grants or housing accommodation has been provided to the Harijans, and even those houses which they occupied have been taken away from them under the Rehabilitation rules. It is stated that preference should be given to the allottees and that the Harijans should be given open sites and a grant of rupees one hundred each. This is cruelty to the Harijans. How can they construct houses with a paltry sum of one hundred rupees? As a matter of fact, the Harijan refugees have been put to a lot of hardship and unnecessary worry. Such poor persons approach the Harijan M. L. As. for help. But it is regrettable that even the Harijan M. L. As are not in a position to render any help to them on account of the attitude adopted by most of the officers concerned. As a matter of fact, such officers do not care for what the Harijan M L. As. say, what to say of their attitude towards the poor and helpless Harijans. I have stated that it is a wrong policy which our Government is following with regard to the allotment of houses in the rural areas. We carried on an agitation against this and the late Dr. Lehna Singh Sethi sympathised with us and promised to change the policy. He told us that the landless refugees would be entitled to get houses of landless evacuees. Madam, I wish to submit that the poor Harijans have no resources. So, it is the duty of the Government to render all possible help to them. That country and that Government flourishes which look to the interests of the poor. In the end I wish to say :—

Be of good cheer and believe that you have been selected by the Lord to do things and you will do them. Hold yourself in readiness, i.e., be pure and holy and love for love's sake; love the poor, the miserable and the down trodden. God will bless you.

Sardar Ajit Singh (Ex-member, West Punjab Legislative Assembly representing South-west Punjab, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I wish to express my views on Rehabilitation. So far as urban rehabi-

[Sardar Ajit Singh]

litation is concerned there is no doubt that the Government of Punjab has not been able to satisfy the displaced persons. The reason for this is that the problem of urban rehabilitation has been taken by the Central Government in its hands. All the steps are taken in accordance with the decisions of the Government of India. In the matter of rural rehabilitation, we are proud of what our State Government has done for the displaced persons.

Deputy Speaker : Is the hon. Member speaking on Rehabilitation or is he praising the Government ?

Sardar Ajit Singh : I have a right to say so.

Deputy Speaker : I don't challenge your right. I am simply making an enquiry.

Sardar Ajit Singh : My submission is that what the Government of Punjab has done for the rural displaced persons under the difficult conditions prevailing in this State, is sufficient for any one to raise his head in pride. In Punjab (I), there was not sufficient land for the persons coming from Pakistan. Moreover, the land which we left was more productive than the land here. In West Punjab, we had canal-irrigated land and here there is very little of canal-irrigated land. The quality of land on this side of the border is not as good as in West Punjab. What is more; the Muslim evacuees have left only sixty percent of the land possessed by the non-Muslim evacuees from Pakistan (Punjab). The total area of land possessed by non-Muslims coming over to Punjab (I) in Pakistan was forty lakh acres. Under these conditions, no Government could cope with the problem in a better way than the present Government has done. I can challenge that the rules under which the Government carried out rehabilitation were the best in these circumstances. It is sometimes said that these has been corruption and bribery. But as far as I know the Government has tried its level best to remove corruption, and if in spite of its efforts there were cases of bribery the persons offering bribes were as much to blame for it as the corrupt officials themselves. On the whole the Government is not to blame for this. As a matter of fact, we are fortunate in having able administrators at the top like Mr. P.N. Thapar the Financial Commissioner; Sardar Tarlok Singh, the able officer, who never got tired even after twenty-two hours of work out

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of twenty-four hours but who has now left us. Mr. M.S. Randhawa the most practical officer in the Department. The golden principles which were set by these officers are worth appreciating.

Then, Madam, my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh has stated that great injustice has been done in the matter of allotment of lands in the suburban villages. I am pained to hear these remarks from the hon. Member, who is fully conversant with the rules pertaining to this subject, particularly when he himself has been instrumental in the resettlement of refugees of ilaqas of Lahore. I am sorry that he has forgotton the fundamental rules underlying this matter. He should know that it was never provided under the rules that an area situated at a distance of two miles from a town will be declared as suburban lands. The provision is that all those lands in the villages adjoining a town will be considered as suburban lands, no matter whether that village is situated at a distance of one furlong only. So, on that basis, if village Bhaura has been declared as a suburban area, there is nothing wrong in it, nor is Shri Thapar to be blamed for this.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether the Parliamentary Secretary has visited this village ?

Sardar Ajit Singh : Yes, I have. I therefore, tell my hon. Friend that no useful purpose will be served by raising such flimsy objections, when he is fully aware of the rules on the subject.

Then, Madam, an objection has been raised that allotment of evacuee houses to the Harijans has been made unjustly. I am really sorry at the ungratefulness of my Harijan friends. They receive the greatest measure of benefit and yet cry that they have got nothing worth the name. I may point out that in Jullundur district the landless Harijans have been allotted such evacuee houses, as have not been allotted to zamindars owning 100 acres of land. At some places, allotment of a house worth fifty thousand rupees has been made to a Harijan, while a big zamindar has not been allotted even a house worth 500 rupees. In this connection I would refer my hon. Friends to the allottments made in village Upera.

Now I would like to make a few submissions to the hon. Minister-in-charge. I would request him to make early arrangements

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for the redemption of Muslim evacuee lands mortgaged with the zamindars of the State, so that the same may be allotted to those refugee zamindars whose claims for land have not so far been satisfied. Then there are a large number of zamindars who had purchased lands in the Nili Bar Colony or in Montgomery before the partition took place. They had paid the prices of the lands in full, but the sale deeds of these lands could not be registered properly due to partition. Since complete records of their lands could not be made available by the West Pakistan Government, they have not been allotted their full share of lands by the Rehabilitation Authorities. Since Government has appointed a Special Officer and a Sub Registrar to frame rules regarding claims of lands, I would request the hon. Minister to see that this matter is also decided soon.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa (Ex-Member, West Punjab Legislative Assembly representing Sialkot. Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Madam, it affords us a little satisfaction that after all in the matter of rural rehabilitation, the zamindars have got something in lieu of the lands left by them in West Pakistan. Of course, there is no doubt about the fact that those who possessed arid lands there have been allotted good lands here and ***vice versa.*** The result is that those zamindars who were entitled to have fertile lands, but are being allotted 'banjar' lands, find themselves in great difficulty. Neither their land is cultivable, nor have they any means to fall back upon or support their families. Besides, there is another difficulty which is causing major headache to the zamindars, and that is this. We were under the impression that after the quasi-permanent allotment of land, the zamindars will not be disturbed. But the reviews on the appeals made by the allottees indicate that it may not be possible for the zamindars to see them in permanent possession of lands during their life time. The element of uncertainty introduced by the revision of appeals is proving detrimental not only to the zamindars themselves but also to the State. The zamindars are not sure whether they will continue in the present allotment of land or they will have to shift to some other place. The result is that they fight shy of making any improvements in their lands. They are chary of spending any mony on sinking wells or building any houses for themselves. They are afraid lest they should be disturbed as a result of some

review of appeal against them They do not know whether the new allottees will be bound to pay for the improvements made by them. I think the Rehabilitation Department ought to have carefully considered this matter before giving final possession of lands to the zamindars. The Government should have definitely made up its mind that no zamindar would be disturbed once he had been allotted some land. This would have created confidence among the zamindars. They would have tried their level best not only to improve the land but also to increase the produce from it. Now what is the state of affairs at present ? The sword of Democles, in the shape of being disturbed any moment, prevents him from effecting any improvement in the land. He is not aware as to who will be responsible for this expenditure the outgoing or the incoming allottee? I feel that this uncertainty is creating great dissatisfaction among these displaced zamindars. It is obvious that since their hearts are not set fully on their lands, the output of produce cannot be satisfactory. I realise that it has been provided in the rules that an allottee will be disturbed under certain conditions and not merely on an appeal by others against him. But what I want is that while deciding an appeal in favour of an allottee possessing 11 acres of land, an allottee with 12 acres of land should not be disturbed. By this I do not mean that glaring cases of injustice should not be set right. I want even-handed justice to be administered to all but not at the cost of a smaller allottee. I further wish to make it clear that the officer deciding an appeal should definitely specify that the incoming allottee will be responsible for the payment of improvements made in the land by the outgoing allottee. I think Government would be well-advised to frame clear-cut rules on the subject. The action taken by Government as suggested by me, would create confidence among the zamindars. As you are aware, Madam, certain zamindars might take loans for the purpose of sinking wells, or building houses on their lands. If they are disturbed and no compensation is paid to them, then who would pay off their debts, as they can neither carry the wells nor the buildings to the new place of allotment. So it is most essential that specific rules should exist to indicate that the improvements made by the outgoing allottee will not be a liability on him, and that the incoming allottee will be responsible for the compensation to be paid to the former The elimination of this element of uncertainty will have a very wholesome effect on the zamindars who

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will then do their utmost to make their lands more productive than before I hope the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation will, during the course of his speech, throw some light on this matter of vital importance.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Madam; I would like to know why the hon. Minister has been given so much time when it is 4-20 p.m. now. They always get half an hour to reply to the debate.

Deputy Speaker : I may tell my hon. Sister that an hon. Minister was usually allowed 1½ hour to give a reply before I occupied this Chair. Now he has been allowed only 40 minutes as guillotine has to be applied at 5 p.m.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Madam. You had told the House that you should be addressed as 'Shrimati'; then why is it that the hon. Lady Member has addressed you as '*Speakra Sahiba*'.

Deputy Speaker : It is no point of order.

Minister for Rehabilitation (The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Majhail) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I would submit that the hon. Members who have criticised the rehabilitation policy of the Government have not kept in view the colossal task which our Government had to tackle· a task which was quite unprecedented in the history of the world. They have also not taken in view the difficulties which the Government had to confront in dealing with this new problem. I had expected that my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh who initiated the debate today would make suggestions to the Government about the rehabilitation or those claimants who have not so far been allotted land. Anyhow, I am glad to say that out of about five lakhs of claimants of land my hon. Friend has been only able to find out not more than 5 or 6 cases about which he could complain. If a critic like Sardar Sajjan Singh has been able to pick out only five or six instances of corruption and nepotism out of this huge task, I should say that it should be regarded as an achievement with which all of us should have the reason to be generally satisfied. It is very easy to pick up a few defects and failings in any individual but these few drawbacks pointed

out by my hon. Friend pale into insignificance as compared to the huge and complicated task which we had to handle. If the hon. Members were to compare the good effects of the allotment of land with the food position of our State during the last three years, they will find that our State was deficit in food in the year 1947. Subsequently in the year 1949 we were self-supporting and in the year 1950 we were surplus and spared 2 lakh tons of food-grains for other States in India. This independence in the matter of food that we have achieved is all due to the satisfactory rehabilitation of rural population in our State. Moreover, my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh had raised an objection that the cases of zamindars in regard to the allotment of land had to pass through many stages which caused great inconvenience to them. But, Madam, the provision of appeal, review and revision has been made with a view to avoid creating impression upon the allottees that the allotment has been made to them for all time to come. Those allottees who feel agrieved that the allotment has not been made according to the . rules can seek redress of their grievances at three stages, that is, appeal, review and revision to ensure justice and fairplay to them. If we keep in view the decisions of the review applications we will find that out of 90 percent of allotments of land there are hardly a few cases in which justice has not been done to the allottees. Many applications for review were such in which the allottees had made requests for the allocation of land in a particular village of their own choice. Under such circumstances, I can say without any fear of contradiction that the work regarding the rehabilitation of vast bulk of rural population has been accomplished satisfactorily. I would now mention three interesting features of rural resettlement. One is the setting up of garden colonies; another feature is the reservation of villages for the settlement of military personnel and the third is the scheme of model villages.

These schemes will be completed in due course of time and be a great achievement which even the worst critics will not deny. The future historians will give us due credit for accomplishing this huge task in a short space of time. I may submit that every human being has his own failings and he sometimes indulges in favouritism and sometimes he commits acts of high-handedness but all the same an error here and there by human beings, who have been entrusted with a huge task, never known heretofore, can be easily overlooked. I

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may assure the House that every effort is being made by the Government to administer justice to the people and to rid the Department of the evils of corruption and nepotism.

I admit that we have not been able to do so much for urban displaced persons; still whatever we have succeeded in doing towards the solution of urban rehabilitation is not something to which it is necessary for us to refer in apologetic terms. The complexity of this problem lay in the vast difference in the status and position of the urban people who have come from West Punjab and those who have migrated from East Punjab. The former belong to an entirely different strata of society, being businessmen, traders and shopkeepers, while the emigrants from East Punjab were mostly artisans or labourers. In the very nature of things, properties left behind by the latter namely houses, shops and factories can bear no comparison with those left in West Punjab by the former. The urban displaced persons have therefore a natural cause to feel dissatisfied with what we have been able to offer them. The number of evacuee houses being small, it has been the constant endeavour of the Government to construct houses with a view to providing accommodation to the displaced urban people according to their status in life as far as possible. Without going into details of the housing schemes formed and implemented by the Government, I would like to make a brief reference to the efforts made by the Government in this direction. Though many an hon. Member has found fault with the sites, construction and the material used in building model townships, no one can deny that they are a monument to the sincerity of the Government's desire to tackle the problem of urban rehabilitation. I have no hesitation in saying that by constructing these townships we have offered accommodation—very healthy, hygienic well ventilated and well-lighted provided with all amenities of modern life to even those people who used to live in West Punjab in most unhealthy surroundings. That the Government has so far spent to the tune of Rs. 2·5 crores on its housing schemes viz., Model Townships, mud huts and 8-marla sites, should not be lost sight of by its critics. What objection can be taken to the construction of mud huts when it is realised that this scheme has provided far better accommodation to those displaced rural people who, before the partition, used to live in hovels never visited by the rays of the sun and fresh air except of course when a storm blew but who have now settled down in urban

areas owing to the nature of professions they have taken to. These mud huts are thousand times better than the hovels they have left behind. Those who criticize the Government for its failure to construct houses of better quality would be ignoring our financial position. Would it be an act of wisdom on our part to go beyond our means and cut our coat without looking to the cloth at our disposal ?

Besides constructing houses in Model Townships, the Government has kept many sites vacant for those who want to build houses according to their own wishes. In this connection, I am glad to cite the instance of about one hundred and fifty families of Gujar Khan who have acquired such sites with a view to re-establishing the old associations in new 'bastis' similar to those that existed in their native town. Then there is the cheap housing scheme of building 8-marla houses for urban displaced population. It is hoped that by 31st March three thousand such houses will have been completed. I have no hesitation in saying that when the whole of this scheme is completed the housing problem in this State will have been to a very large extent solved.

While giving such earnest consideration to the solution of the housing problem, the Government has not neglected to fill the void in our social and industrial life created by the migration of people of a particular stratum of society, I mean the artisans and the craftsmen employed in rural as well as urban areas. By opening no less than 21 work centres in this State the Government has made arrangements to train the workless displaced persons in various trades and crafts such as carpentary, smithy, weaving, hosiery, soap-making, oil-making, leather-tanning, dyeing, calico printing etc. This scheme has two-fold purpose. Firstly to bridge the gap created in our economy as a result of the departure of Muslim artisans and secondly to enable the uprooted Hindu and Sikh brethren, who are without any means of subsistence, to earn their livelihood as respectable members of the society. It is with these two objects in view that various crafts are being taught in these work centres.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Have you also given them training in law-breaking ?

Minister for Rehabilitation : We have left this task for the hon. Member. There is a world of difference between what we have done for turning the unemployed, jobless and penniless people into

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respectable citizens capable of earning an honest living and what my Friend is doing in his own way. By opening these work centres we have added to the number of useful members of our society and made those who owned no land in West Punjab capable of earning their living and standing on their feet.

In addition to these efforts on our part we have set up vocational centres for imparting vocational training to boys and girls. I am pleased to tell the hon. Members that up till now we have been successful in training about six thousand boys and about three thousand girls and at this time about two thousand boys and girls are receiving their training in these centres. Any of my hon. Friends can go to these work and vocational centres and verify things for himself. But the pity is that if somebody goes to these places, he goes not with a view to seeing things for making useful suggestions, but to offer destructive criticism. This is a very bad spirit and should be deprecated by all right-thinking men and women. I may here add that the Punjab Government has established industrial town-ships at Panipat, Sonipat, Bahadurgarh, Jagadhri, Jullundur and Ludhiana and a large number of sites have already been given to my industrialist friends. We will also help them in running their factories by arranging supplies of steel for them from the Government of India. I have every hope that in about a year's time not only a very large number of our population will be enabled to find work in these town-ships but we will have made quite rapid strides in the development of industry in our State. Further, the House will be pleased to know that steps are being taken by the Government to start various industries at Khanna and Rupar. So I think that all this information which I have given will go a long way in convincing my hon. Friends that so far as we are concerned we have left no stone unturned in bringing about the rehabilitation of the urban people. If anybody feels like accusing us of apathy or negligence in this direction, he has absolutely no justification for these charges. We have tried to do our best in the circumstances and we are sure that nobody could have done better. After all, my hon. Friends should give us credit for the fact that we had to work against a number of limitations. Here I may give a few more details of the work done by this Government in connection with the rehabilitation

of our displaced people. We have opened women homes and at present about 145 of my sisters are working in them. We have also opened centres where about six thousand spinners and about two and a half thousand weavers are always at work. Is not all this a testimony to the good work that has been done by the Government?

Then, Madam, certain things have been said about the factories left by the Muslims. The number of these factories, I should say so-called factories, is 1325. Out of these 1325 factories, 1131 factories have been allotted. It will be recalled that when these factories were being allotted a suggestion was made that they should be auctioned. The suggestion was adopted and accordingly the factories were auctioned. But then nobody had been compelled at the time of auction to offer high bids. People offered high bids of their own accord and the Government should not be blamed for fixing high rents. The Government, on the other hand, extended a helping hand to the people and advanced them loans for working the factories. It must be within the knowledge of some of my hon Friends that we gave loans to the tune of twenty-five thousand rupees for this purpose to some of the displaced persons. By telling these things what I wish to drive at is this that we may not have been able to provide houses, shops, and factories to the urban displaced people to their satisfaction but nobody can say that what should have been done has not been done. Here there is another difficulty and it is this that nothing definite can be said about compensation etc. of the urban property which has been left behind by the displaced people. This question is still hanging fire between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan. Nobody can say as to what will be the solution of this problem. But one thing can be said and it is that the Government of India wishes to solve this problem in its own way. The Government of India desires that the whole of evacuee property in India should be pooled and then distributed in such a way that justice is done to all concerned. The Central Government or for that matter the State Government is perfectly aware of its responsibilities in connection with rehabilitation. But then all what is desired cannot be done by the Government and the society or the public at large has also to do its part. As a matter of fact this problem of rehabilitation will continue to remain unsolved till the people themselves realize their responsibility. If I think aright, we would have succeeded in tackling

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this problem to a very great extent in case some of the original inhabitants of this State—I mean the inhabitants other than the displaced persons—had not taken undue advantage of the situation for occupying evacuee property. If these friends had realized their duty and had some sympathy for the refugees, they could have helped us a good deal. But unfortunately that was not to be and the whole of the burden was thrown on the Government. It has been said that a long period of three and a half years has passed and the goal of resettling the displaced people is still not in sight. I say that the period of three and a half years may appear to be pretty long in the life of an individual but it is certainly not a very long period if a nation or a State is to be resettled or rehabilitated. A State could not be rehabilitated overnight and a period of three and a half years is only a moment in the history of a State I may here agree with some of my hon Friends who might insist that some individuals have not been rehabilitated to their satisfaction. It is possible that we may have failed to do things for an individual as he desired but it would be a wrong allegation if somebody says that we have done little for the general good. So far as the collective good is concerned, I have given the figures and they speak for themselves.

In my opinion, if the experiment of running work centres on these lines proves a success in this State, it will serve as model for the whole country. Other States will also be able to act on these lines and at some stage it will be possible to run factories in this manner. This will enable the co-operative workers to become proprietors of the workshops or factories in which they work.

Undoubtedly there is vast difference between the vocations of urban and rural people but the task of rehabilitation is such that rural rehabilitation cannot be separated from the urban rehabilitation. If we draw a line between these, it will give rise to various complications. We should not say that the ruralites, the urbanites or the Harijans have been given preferential treatment. In that case, our attention will be diverted from the main task before us. The Government has to rehabilitate all the displaced persons irrespective of the fact whether they are urbanites, agriculturists or Harijans. We should examine the whole problem from the point of view of determining the degree of success achieved so far in rehabilitating the displaced persons as a whole. If we look at this problem

from a narrow point of view, it will lose its real importance. Most of my hon. Friends, who expressed their views on this subject, viewed it either from rural or urban point of view. This should not have been done. Some of my friends said that proper attention had not been paid to the Harijans. I, however, feel that if there is any class which is entitled to special priveleges, it is that of Harijans. We are most anxious to redress their difficulties. If they draw the attention of the Government to any particular hardship sufferred by them, I can give them an assurance that we will try to remove it. If, however. somebody wants one section of people to be benefitted at the cost of others, I have no hesitation in saying that in that case the real purpose of rehabilitation will be defeated. I was submitting, Madam, that most of the hon. Members have criticised this subject from one particular point of view ar another. Unless we give up that habit, I feel that we w ll not succeed in attaining our target. As a matter of fact, the rural people can not live without the urbanites and the latter are dependent on the former. Similarly the farmers can not live without the Harijans and the latter can not live without the former. All of them are dependent upon each other. If we do not change our outlook, it will not be possible for us to rehabilitate lakhs of those displaced persons who were forced to leave their homes. All the same, I do not hesitate in saying that so far as rural people are concerned, they have been rehabilitated to a large extent. We have to attend to the task of urban rehabilitation now.

The Government has chalked out certain schemes in this connection, and if my hon. Friends give full co-operation, a great deal will be accomplished in that sphere too. If the hon. Members point out defects or weaknesses in our work, I shall be thankful to them and shall welcome their suggestions. The Government will act on those suggestions, as far as possible. Critcism, however, should not be merely destructive. It should not be made with the mere object of condemning the Government. It is not bad to point out defects and shortcomings, because if our attention is drawn to these, we will be able to remove them. I admit that the task of rehabilitation is so gigantic that a large number of persons might not have received the required help. It is possible that some officers might have tried to derive personal gains or they might have helped their relatives or friends, but in spite of all these things, if we examine the problem as a whole, it will be realized that every thingh possible is being done to accomplish this task.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Has the Government taken action against those officers, about whom it was pointed out that they were corrupt ?

Minister For Rehabilitation : If my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh chooses to call even those persons as guilty who in fact did their work honestly, I am sorry that I can do nothing If he brings any particular instance or case to my notice, I shall certainly take action aginst the person concerned. It is not proper to say things about Jathedar Chanan Singh or others in this House, on account of personal rivalries.

Sardar Bachan Singh : *Zindabad.*

Minister For Rehabilitation : My hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh is saying 'zindabad'. I wish to assure him that we want to do this work in such a manner that he may be able to say *Zindabad* on account of it. Some hon. Members want to oppose for the sake of oppositiotn. In stead of offering destructive criticism, they should make constructive suggestions. If my hon. Friends Sardar Sajjan Singh and Sardar Bachan Singh point out defects in our work, I shall surely try to remove them. If they have any complaint against some officer or have some other suggestion to offer, I am always prepared to discuss the matter with them. At present, we are faced with the task of rehabilitating lakhs of our displaced brethren. Mere talk can not help us in accomplishing it. In the end, I wish to assure the House that every effort will be made to remove those defects and weaknesses towards which they have drawn my attention.

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

> That the item of Rs. 25,34,460 on account of 57—Miscellaneous—L—Expenditure on displaced persons be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : Madam, you are using a foreign word.

Deputy Speaker : I have already said that I do not want to enter into any wordy discussion I am in favour of a language which should be the language of whole India. It should include words from all the languages, including English language. There is no harm if any English word is taken for inclusion in Hindustani. I am not here to represent Sanskrit, Hindi or any other particular language. If the

House will give me some time, I shall be able to give translation of all the words. The question is—

That the item of Rs. 25,34,460 on account of 57—Miscellaneous—L—Expenditure on displaced persons be reduced by Rs. 100/-.

The Assembly divided. Ayes : 5 Noes : 40.

AYES

Bachan Singh, Sardar.

Man Singh Jathedar, Sardar.

Ranbir Singh, Mehta.

Sajjan Singh, Sardar.

Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.

NOES

Amar Nath, Vidyalankar, Shri.

Badlu Ram, Chaudhri.

Beli Ram, Thakur.

Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri.

Bhim Sen Sachar, Shri.

Bikram Chand, Dr.

Buja Ram Bhagat, Shri.

Dalip Singh, Thakur.

Dev Raj Sethi, Shri.

Faqir Chand, Pandit.

Gopi Chand Bhargava, The Hon. Dr.

Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar.

Harbhaj Ram, Chaudhri.

Inder Singh, Sardar.

Ishar Singh Mujhail, The Hon. Sardar.

Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar.

Jiwan Lal, Pandit.

Kehar Singh, Sardar.

Krishna Gopl Dutt, Chaudhri.

Lahri Singh, Chaudhri.

Matu Ram, Chaudhri.

Mehar Chand, Chaudhri.

Narinder Singh, Sant.

Narotam Singh, The Hon. Sardar.

Parkash Kaur, Shrimati Dr.

Piara Singh, Sardar.

Prem Singh Chaudhri.

Ranjit Singh, The Hon. Captain.

Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.

Samar Singh, Chaudhri.

Sher Singh, Chaudhri.

Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.

Shiv Singh, Sardar.

Sita Devi, Shrimati.

Sudarshan, Seth.

Sundar Singh, Chaudhri.

Tara Singh, Sardar Sahib Sarda

Ujjal Singh, Sardar.

Virendra, Shri.

Waryam Singh, Sardar.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

> That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,48,62,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951 52 in respect of "Miscellaneous".

The motion was carried.

The following Demands were then put from the Chair and carried:

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 76,54,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Land Revenue ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,34,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " State Excise ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,30,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Stamps ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,73,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Forests ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Registration".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,33,600 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Acts and Other Taxes and Duties".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 99,69,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Irrigation (Works)".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,98,83,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Irrigation (Capital)".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,47,060 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Administration of Justice ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,05,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Jails and Convict Settlements".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,66,56,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Police ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,39,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments".

[Deputy Speaker]

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,47,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Medical and Public Health ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,02,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the chargcs that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Agriculture ".

Tha' a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,52,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of 'Veterinary'.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,62,000 be granted to the Governoa to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of 'Co-operation'.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,80,700 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Industries".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 43,14,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Industrial Development.'

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,84,99,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of 'Civil Works'.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,06,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of 'Charges on Buildings and Roads Establishments'.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,68,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of 'Electricity Schemes—Working Expenses'.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 56,25,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of 'Charges on Electricity Establishment and Miscellaneous Expenditure'.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,79,55,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of 'Civil Works (Capital)'.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,04,16,200 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of 'Electricity Schemes—Capital Expenditure'.

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Famine ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,25,900 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Allowances and Pensions ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,48,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the ear 1951-52 in respect of " Commuted Value of Pensions—Capital Expenditure".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27 59,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of pavment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Stationary and Printing ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,81,400 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Extraordinary Charges ".

That a sum not exceeding Re. 10,00,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Prepartition Payments ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs 35,38,000 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Agricultural Improvement and Research".

That a sum not exeeeding Rs. 8,08,800 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Capital Account of Other Provincial Works outside the Revenue Account".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 54,95,500 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4, 61,100 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Advances not bearing Interest Advances Repayable ".

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,58,36,300 be granted to the Governor to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year 1951-52 in respect of " Loans and Advances Bearing Interest".

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on Thursday, 29th March, 1951.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

29th MARCH, 1951

Vol. III—No. 18.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

CONTENTS

Thursday, 29th March, 1951.

PRINTED AT THE: SANATAN DHARAM PRESS, GHORA CHOWKI, SIMLA.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly

Third Session of the First Punjab Legislative Assembly.

THURSDAY, THE 29TH MARCH, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 2 p. m. of the clock.

ABSENCE OF HONOURABLE SPEAKER.

Secretary : I have to inform the House that the hon. Speaker is unavoidably absent. The Deputy Speaker will, therefore, take the Chair.

(Shrimati Shanno Devi, Deputy Speaker, occupied the Chair.)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, ROHTAK.

*2628. **Chaudhri Badlu Ram** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the total amount of Travelling Allowance drawn during the last six months by (i) the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak and (ii) the Superintendent of Police Rohtak ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(i) Rs.1079/3/-.

(ii) Rs.996/5/-.

EJECTMENT OF HARIJANS FROM THEIR HOUSES IN THE STATE.

*2633. **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints from Harijans in various Districts in the State, that they have been ejected from their houses by some land-lords, and in certain cases by officers of the Government ;

(b) the steps, if any, taken by the Government in the matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(a) Some complaints regarding the forcible eviction of Harijans from their houses by landlords were received from certain rural areas in the State. Some Harijans who had unlawfully occupied the houses were also ejected by the authorities.

(b) The following instructions were issued to all Deputy Commissioners in respect of displaced Harijans :—

(i) Houses of evacuee *kamins* should be given to displaced *kamins* only.

(ii) No Harijan who is entitled to stay on in the house in his occupation according to the existing rules, should be dispossessed.

(iii) Landless displaced persons who are anxious to live in villages and are useful to village economy should be provided with housing accommodation.

(iv) Efforts should be made to provide alternative accommodation to persons who are ousted from their houses in the same village or in the neighbouring villages by rationing accommodation.

(v) Houses of landless evacuees in villages must be allotted to such landless displaced persons as want to settle in evacuee villages in preference to the land allottees.

The Harijans ejected by the authorities were given alternative accommodation.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if it is not the definite and well-defined policy of the Government that the houses of the landless evacuees should be allotted to landless displaced persons ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Houses have been and are being allotted to the landless Harijans according to the instructions issued by the Government to the Deputy Commissioners which I have already mentioned in my reply above.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that in spite of these instructions in most of the villages

Harijans who were living in the houses of the landless evacuees have been forcibly ejected?

Minister For Public Works : The reply to this question has already been given by the Parliamentary Secretary.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : In view of the reply of the Parliamentary Secretary that the houses of landless evacuees in villages must be allotted to such landless displaced persons as want to settle in evacuee villages in preference to the land allottees, may I know if there is any rule under which landless displaced persons get houses of landless evacuees; if so, does'nt the reply of the Parliamentary Secretary come into conflict with this rule ?

Minister : His reply does come into conflict with the rule, referred to by the hon. Member, when a landless Harijan is already in possession of a house. In that case he will not be ejected. Landless displaced persons are to be given houses in preference to the land allottees

Shri Virendra : Is the Government aware of any instances where Harijans have been ejected from their houses in the State ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Cases regarding the ejectment of Harijans in the districts of Ambala, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur, which were brought to the notice of the Government have been set right accordingly.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : Is it a fact that in certain villages of the district of Gurdaspur Harijans have been ejected from the houses of landless evacuees ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice for this question.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that in village 'Dughana' of district Jullundur, Harijans were ejected from the houses of landless evacuees which they were occupying since a long time, and as a result of which they were forced to live outside their houses for days together ?

Parliamentary Secretary : A fresh notice is required for making the required information available to the Lady Member. My hon. Friend Shri Virendra had asked a general question and a reply has already been given to that. So far as the particular instance, referred to by the Lady Member, is concerned, I require notice tomake the required information available to her.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware of the fact that in certain villages of Jullundur District Harijans have been ejected from the houses of landless evacuees? Has the Government taken any action to stop these ejectments ?

Parliamentary Secretary: Enquiries have been made into the cases of those Harijans who have not been allotted houses according to the instructions of the Government and who have been ejected forcibly from their houses. Government has already set all these irregularities right.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Are there any such cases pertaining to the District of Jullundur within the knowledge of the Government where Harijans who have been ejected from their houses have not been provided with any housing accommodation ?

Minister : May be so. But if such cases are brought to the notice of the Government, efforts would be made to set the matters right.

HAILSTORM.

*2654 **Dr. Sant Ram Seth:** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that hailstorms swept over some villages during this winter in the State ;

(b) the number of villages affected by such storms together with their intensity and the total damage done by them ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

(a) Yes.

(b) Ten villages of the Jagraon Tehsil, in Ludhiana District were affected. As the size of the hails was very small no damage was caused by them.

FLOODS IN THE STATE.

*2661. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) the total damage done by the last floods in the State ;

(b) the total area so affected;

(c) the total cost of damaged crops;

(d) the total amount of remission granted in the land revenue and in the abiana respectively ;

(e) the total amount of taccavi (for bullocks, houses, wells, tube-wells, seeds etc.) granted to the land-owners ;

(f) the number of villages where taccavi for houses was given to Harijans and Mazhbi sikhs ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

(a) Villages affected:— — — — — 2100

Population affected :—18,49,9?2 approximately.

Houses affected or damaged :—2,13,828 approximately.

Persons killed — — — — — 69

Cattle killed — — — — — 741

Government buildings damaged.

(a) Tehsil buildings, Tarn Taran, Pathankot and Ba ala.

(b) Civil Hospitals, Pathankot and Ajnala.

(c) Jails, Amritsar and Gurdaspur.

(d) R. M's. court, Batala.

Total area affected — — 3,55,179 acres approximately.

Total cost of damage to crops— Rs. 2,09,18,469 —do—

[Minister for Revenue]

Food grain stocks of Government destroyed.	3,150 tons approximately.

(b) 3,55,179 acres approximately.

(c) 2,09,18,469 rupees approximately.

(d) Land Revenue.	The matter is receiving attention and data is being collected for the purpose by the Deputy Commissioners concerned and remissions will be given in all deserving cases.
Abiana : Rs. 3,79,408/8/-	
(e) Rs. 99,08,220	This figure also includes taccavi loans given by the Rural Rehabilitation Department except that of Ludhiana District.
(f) 205 villages	The information regarding Ferozepore and Gurdaspur districts is still being collected by the Deputy Commissioners.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE DRAWN BY HON. MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

***2676. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar:** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) the travelling allowances drawn by each of the hon. Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries for each of the months from April, 1950 to January, 1951 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scales of the travelling allowances of the hon. Ministers have recently been increased; if so, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(a) A statement containing the requiste information is laid on the Table†

†Kept in the Library

(b) Yes the scales of Travelling Allowance in respect of road journeys performed by the hon. Ministers were recently raised in view of the increase in the cost of maintenance of the cars.

Shri Amar Nath Vidylankar : Does the omission of the salary and travelling allowance of the hon. Labour Minister from December onwards from the statement supplied to me mean that the hon. Minister is not drawing his salary etc., from the time since some of the portfolios were withdrawn from him ?

Minister for Public works : This supplementary does not arise from the main question but I may add for the information of the hon. Member that. . . . .

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. I request you kindly to give a definite ruling as to whether it is for the Minister concerned or for the Chair to decide that a particular supplementary does not arise from the main question.

Deputy Speaker : I am grateful to the hon. Member for his help, but I may tell him that I don't need any. It would be very kind of him if he does not unnecessarily interrupt and affords me an opportunity of hearing what the hon. Minister has to say.

Shri Prabadh Chandra : The hon. Minister has already said that a particular supplementary did not arise out of the main question. I wish to know your ruling, Madam, as to whether it was for him or for the Chair to say that.

Deputy Speaker : I have already told the hon. Member that it is the duty of the Chair to say that but how could the Chair take a decision without listening to what the hon. Minister had to ay. I request the hon. Member that he should let me have the views of the hon. Minister.

Minister : Madam, there is no doubt that it is for the Chair to give the ruling but it is equally without doubt that the hon Members and the hon. Ministers have also a right to put forth their points of view.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. Is the hon. Minister within his rights when he criticizes the ruling given by the Chair ?

Deputy Speaker : I may tell the hon. Member that if he continues to interrupt unnecessarily, I may have to perform a very unpleasant duty. I repeat that I don't stand in need of any help from any quarter. I would request the hon. Member to have a little of patience.

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; Madam, you need not perform an unpleasant duty, I bow to your ruling as my defeat before you is my victory. (*Laughter*)

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should withdraw the words "My defeat before you is my victory". No wrestling match is being held in this House and there can be no defeats and victories.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, I wanted to convey that it was an honour for me to obey your ruling. I have no hesitation in withdrawing the words to which objection has been taken

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Minister should also withdraw his criticism on the ruling from the Chair.

Minister : I never criticized the ruling of the Chair. I only said that we had a right to draw the attention of the Chair to certain facts. That is all.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know whether my supplementary arises out of the main question or not ?

Deputy Speaker : Like yesterday I am again prepared to put to you to decide whether your supplementary arose out of the main question or not. If I am to decide, I rule that this question does not arise out of the main question.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : On a point of order, Madam.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it a fact that...

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order Madam. I wish to bring to the notice of the Chair that points of order have preference over all other questions.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should know that I have learnt all these things.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it not a fact that the Retrenchment Committee, the Estimates Committee and some other Committees

have recommended that the rates of the travelling allowance should be reduced. If it is so, why have the rates of T. A. of the hon. Ministers been raise ?

Minister : This question has already been replied to a number of times before.

CASES OF BLACK-MARKETING IN THIS STATE.

*2679. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar** : Will the hon Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of cases of black-marketing offences and of contravention of control orders launched in the State during the years 1949 and 1950 respectively ;

(b) the number of convictions during the same years for these offences together with the names of persons convicted with their addresses ;

(c) whether the Government intend publishing the lists of the offenders with their addresses in the Government Gazette to warn the public against them ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Majhail:

(a) (i) 1949-2310

(ii) 1950-2095

(b) 1444 and 989 persons were convicted in 1949 and 1950 respectively. Lists showing the names and addresses of the convicted persons are placed on the Table.†

(c) No.

CASES OF CORRUPTION IN THE STATE.

*2680. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases of bribery and other forms of corruption launched in the State during the years 1949 and 1950 respectively ;

†Kept in the library

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar]

(b) the number of convictions for these offences in the respective years together with the names of persons who were so convicted with their full addresses ;

(c) whether the Government intend publishing in the official gazette the names of the of enders along with their complete addresses, in order to serve a warning to the public ?

Parlimentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh):

(a) 303 and 203 respectively.

(b) 153 and 84 respectively. A statement containing the desired particulars is laid on the Table.†

(c) No. No useful purpose is likely to be served by their publication in the official gazette.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I wish to bring it to the notice of the Chair that I have not been supplied a copy of the statement which has been laid on the Table.

Minister For Public Works : It is very much regretted but it will be supplied to the hon. Member now.

Shri Virendra : What objection has the Government to the publication of the names of the offenders in the Government Gazette ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is a very long list consisting of about 600 or 700 names and no useful purpose will be served by their publication in the Gazette.

Shri Virendra : If the number of these offenders is about 600 or 700, it will take not more then four or five pages of the Gazette to publish these. By their publication, the public will come to know about the names of the black-marketeers.

Parliamentay Secretary : The Government will considar this suggestion.

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†Kept in the library

POLITICAL OFFENDERS.

*2702. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government has issued any instructions to the District Magistrates defining the term 'political offenders' for the purpose of their treatment in jails after their arrest, conviction and detention ; if so, the copy of these instructions be laid on the Table ;

(b) (i) whether any persons were arrested under section 14/22 of the Punjab Public Safety Act in connection with the Sharnarthi Muzaria Satyagrah Movement during the year 1950 ; if so, their number ;

(ii) whether any of them was convicted ; if so, their number ;

(iii) whether any of them was put in 'A' or 'B' class in jail after his arrest or conviction ; if so, their number ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(iv) whether any of them was accused of using violence after arrest or conviction ; if so, their names ;

(c) whether the convicting magistrate passed any remarks about the violence demonstrated or used by any of the accused referred to in part (b) (iv) above ; if so, the copy of the remarks passed be laid on the Table ;

(d) whether the persons referred to in part (b) (i) above were taken as 'political offenders' and treated likewise ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentry Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(a) *First part*:— No.

Second part :— Does not arise.

(b) (i) *First part* :— Yes.

Second part:—71.

(ii) *First part* :— Yes.

[Parliamentary Secretary]

Second part :— 70.

(iii) *First part* :— Yes.

Second part:— 'A' class :— None.

'B' class :— 10.

Third part : — Does not arise.

(iv) *First part* :— No.

Second part :— Does not arise.

(c) *First part* :—No.

Second part :— Does not arise.

(d) No.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Since when has the Government decided that there wil be no more political prisoners in this State and what were the reasons which led to such a decision ?

Minister For Public Works : No such decision has been made.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that no instructions defining the term 'political offenders' have been issued to the District Magistrates. Am I to understand that this term has been abolished ?

Minister : In my opinion, my hon. Friend has not arrived at the correct conclusion.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If a person adopts peaceful means or resorts to some form of Satyagraha for drawing the attention of the Government to certain difficulties, will he, if imprisoned, be treated as a political offender or not?

Minister : If the offence is of a political nature, he will be treated as a political prisoner but if it is committed for attaining some personal gain, it will not be considered a political offence.

Shri Virendra : In which category does the Government include the Communists ?

Minister : Generally they are treated as political prisoners but if they are guilty of an offence like that of causing derailment or of murder they cannot be regarded as political offenders.

Shrimati Sita Devi : What is the definition of the term 'political prisoners' from the point of view of the Government ?

Minister : Definition of this term can be found out from the dictionary.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Minister must say what he considers to be the definition of this term.

Minister : I consider the term 'political prisoner' to mean 'syasi' in Urdu and 'rajnaitik' in Hindi.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I have not enquired the definition of the term. I wish to know as to whom does the Government regard as political prisoners ?

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member is arguing now. I can't allow that.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Were those persons who were arrested during the course of Refugee Satyagraha in Hoshiarpur treated as political prisoners or not ?

Minister : This depends upon the merits of each case.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : If a person is arrested for defying section 144, is he treated as a political prisoner ?

Minister : It has to be decided on the merits of each case. If two parties come to blows over some dispute concerning land or theft of some cattle and it becomes necessary to enforce section 144 to control the situation, the offenders will not be regarded as political offenders.

IMPOSITION OF COLLECTIVE FINES ON VILLAGES OF URBAN LOCALITIES.

*2/11. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to State :—

(a) whether the total amount of the collective fines imposed by an order dated 6th November 1947 on the various

Sarda Sajjan Singh]

villages of Rohtak district referred to in statement given by the Government in reply to unstarred qnestion No. 34 during the Budget Session, 1948 referred to in parts (v) (ix) and (x) thereof has been calculated after ascertaining the land revenue of the villages affected ; if so, the amount to be realised ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(b) the district-wise total amount of the collective fines imposed ;

(c) the district-wise total amount recovered up to 31st December 1950 ;

(d) (i) the district-wise total amount of this fine yet to be recovered ;

(ii) the reasons for the non-recovery thereof in each district ;

(iii) the steps, if any, Government proposes to take for the recovery of the arrears ;

(e) whether the Government has arrived at any decision for the remission of these arrears ; if so, the reasons for remitting the arrears due ;

(f) whether the Government proposes to refund the fine already realised ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh)

(a) Yes, Rs. 22,513

(v Rs. 9256/- (IX) Rs. 8481/- (X) Rs. 4776/-)

(b)
(c)
(d) (i)
(ii) } A statement is laid on the Table.†

(d)(iii)
(e)
(f) } The whole matter is under examination

Sardar Sajjan Singh : According to the statement supplied by the hon. Minister a fine of Rs. 4,85,185 was imposed on Rohtak but

†Kept in the Library

not a penny has been realized so far. As against this, collective fine amounting to Rs. 10,000 was imposed on Ambala District and out of it Rs. 7,833 have been realized. Similarly, fines amounting to Rs. 14,600 and Rs. 26,324 were imposed on Hoshirpur and Jullundur districts respectively out of which Rs. 9,049 and Rs. 23,615 have been realized. What is the reason of not even realising a penny in the case of Rohtak and Ludhiana Districts ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The hon. Member has not read the last column of the statement. It is stated that recovery of arrears has been suspended pending further examination of the whole matter. Representations were received from some districts that the fines imposed on them should be remitted. The recovery of fines in the case of those districts has been suspended pending the examination of their cases.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : These fines were imposed about three years back and ever since then the Government has been telling us during every Session that the matter is under consideration. After all how much more time will be taken by the Government to decide about them ?

Minister For Public Works : This is a democratic form of Government and it has to give proper consideration to the complaints of the people.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I want to know as to how much more time will be taken by the Government to decide about these fines when already 3½ years have been taken ?

Minister : As much time as is considered reasonable will be taken in this matter.

SUSPENSION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS IN THE STATE.

*2754. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number and names of Government Officers who have been under suspension for more than one year in the State :

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

(b) whether there are any Government Officers who are under suspension since January, 1948 ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(a) 27 officials. It is not in public interest to disclose names.

(b) Yes. One official.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know from the hon. Parliamentary Secretary the reasons due to which the names of the officials who have been suspended, have not been disclosed ? Swear by your honesty and tell the truth.

Parliamentary Secretary : At present enquiries are being conducted against the suspended officials It is possible that charges against some of them might be proved while against others they might not be proved. It is, therefore, not in public interest that the reputation of those persons should be vitiated by disclosing their names at the stage of suspension. That is why the Government does not disclose the names of the suspended officials so long as the enquiries against them are not completed.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Madam. Shri Prabodh Chandra, while putting his supplementary, asked the Parliamentary Secretary to swear by his honesty and to tell the truth. Can any Member say these words to another Member ?

Deputy Speaker : I did not hear these words just at the time when they were said. I would ask the hon. Member to withdraw them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I withdraw them. I want to know why the officer who was suspended in 1948 and against whom the enquiry has been completed and the report of the Officer, deputed to make enquiry, submitted to the Government in September 1950, has not been reinstated so far ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Whenever any complaint against any public servant is made to the Government, it conducts a thorough enquiry into it. It is only then that any decision is taken The Government wants to do justice to everybody even if

there is a little delay in the disposal of the complaint. It is not proper for the Government to give summary decision against anybody.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Government, before suspending an official, satisfies itself that there is some proof against him ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Unless there is some *prima facie* proof against any official of his having done anything wrong, he is not suspended. After he is suspended, enquiries are instituted.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : My question is as to why the officer who was suspended in 1948 and against whom enquiry has been completed and the report submitted, in September 1950, and who has been declared innocent, has not been reinstated so far in view of the fact that according to rules no report can be withheld for more than six months by the Government.

Parliamentary Secretary : This matter is *Sub-judice* and up till now enquiries are being made in it. May be the hon. Member knows better than myself. All that I am aware of is that the delay is being caused only in the interests of justice.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the Government would give any compensation to the officer mentioned in my previous supplementary in case it is established that the report of enquiry was submitted to the Government in September, 50 ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is a hypothetical question; I cannot reply to it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if there are rules to the effect that the officers must be reinstated within six months after the report of enquiry against them is submitted to the Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : There are no hard and fast rules on this point.

FILLING OF POSTS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

*2761. **Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of posts carrying Rs. 150/-or more per month as pay which have been filled during 1947-50 by the Government without referring them to the Punjab Public Service Commission ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : 934; but all these appointments were made in departments recruitment to which had been taken out of the purview of the State Public Service Commission either before or after partition.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS FOR UNA SEAT.

*2763. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in recent Assembly elections for Una seat, the District Board teachers were made to work for one candidate under official pressure ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : Most of the allegations have been proved to be baseless. A report from the Deputy Commissioner has, however, been asked for and the result shall be conveyed to the hon. Member when received.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said that most of the allegations were found baseless If I have rightly followed him, his statement implies that some of the allegations have been found true. May I know if any action has so far been taken against the persons who, in spite of being in the service of the Government or the District Board, participated in the election campaign ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The hon. Member has not followed me correctly or perhaps I have not been able to explain properly. What I meant was this, most of the complaints were enquired into and were found baseless while others were still under investigation and the reports of enquiry regarding them had not so far been received by the Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will the Parliamentary Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the President of the Punjab State Congress, Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, recently submitted a complaint to the effect that the District Board teachers were made to work in the election under official pressure and he mentioned the names of two particular teachers in this connection; if so, whether he was consulted before any decision was taken by the Government on this matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The complaint which reached the Government from the State Congress Committee stated that the

Committee was making enquiries into the matter. So how can the Government take any action unless the allegation could be established ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that a complaint was lodged by the District Congress Committee, Hoshiarpur to the effect that while the two District Board teachers carried on the election propaganda at places which were twenty or thirty miles from their school, they were marked present there ?

Parliamentary Secretary : No complaint from District Congress Committee has been received.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not desirable for the Government to send for and hear a person making allegations before any decision, one way or the other, is arrived at in such matters ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I have already stated that the State Congress Committee's enquiry has not been completed, as is evident from the complaint.

(At this time Dr. Bikram Chand rose to ask a supplementary but the Deputy Speaker called the next question).

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Madam, this is an important question. So the hon. Member from that constituency should be given an opportunity to ask a supplementary.

Deputy Speaker : Well, he is permitted to do so.

Dr. Bikram Chand : May I know the names of those who are entrusted with the enquiry?

Parliamentary Secretary : One of them is the District Inspector of Schools.

Shri Virendra : When did the enquiry start ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I don't remember the date at this time If the hon. Member gives notice, I can tell that.

Shri Virendra : May I know whether the Government gives an opportunity of explaining the allegations to a person making them, especially when he is a responsible person of some political party ?

Minister For Public Works : Such evidence can be taken, if considered necessary.

Dr Bikram Chand : May I know where such evidence is recorded ?

Minister : If a particular case is stated the reply can be given.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In the present case only two persons are charged. Is it not a particular case ?

Minister : On a point of order Can two persons ask the same supplementary ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order. Is this a point of order ?

Deputy Speaker : Neither yours nor his is a point of order. (*Laughter.*)

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

*2764. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the reasons for the recent increase in the number of Parliamentary Secretaries;

(b) the work they have been entrusted with ;

(c) whether the Parliamentary Secretaries have work enough to justify their appointments ?

Parliamentary secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(a) Increase in Parliamentary work.

(b) Parliamentary work and assistance to the hon. Ministers in the effective discharge of their duties.

(c) Yes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has stated in his reply that the number of Parliamentary Secretaries was

increased from seven to fourteen because there was an increase in work. May I know what work they have been doing for the last six months, after October session ?

Minister for Public works : The increase in number has been necessitated by the work which has increased

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is it not a fact that chaprasis and stenos have been taken away from the Parliamentary Secretaries ?

Minister : This question would arise only when decisions in this matter are taken.

Deputy Speaker : I am sorry that no proper reply is being given by the Government. The Member should repeat the question.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Has the Government decided to take away chaprasis and stenos from the Parliamentary Secretaries ?

Minister : No such order has been issued.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that the Parliamentary Secretaries are meant only for giving indefinite replies in the absence of the hon. Minister ?

Deputy Speaker : This is a question of opinion.

Shri Virendra : It has been stated that the work of Parliamentary Secretaries has increased and therefore it has become necessary to increase their strength. May I know what work has increased ?

Minister : Parliamentary work.

Shri Virendra : Which parliamentary work.

Minister : Of Punjab Assembly.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know whether canvassing is also included among their duties ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the rules relating to the duties and functions of the Parliamentary Secretaries. Shri Prabodh Chandra has read such rules and he can tell that parliamentary work includes office work and other work.

An hon. Member : What is this 'other work'

Parliamentary Secretary : We have to go about and make necessary arrangements for the official tours of the hon. Ministers. We go before them, with them and after them.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the work of the fourteen Parliamentary Secretaries is confined to the work in the House or it includes lobby work also?

Parliamentary Secretary : They have to work everywhere, in the House, outside the House; in the lobbies outside the lobbies.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary kindly tell us what kind of effective help is rendered by the Parliamentary Secretaries to the hon. Ministers?

Parliamentary Secretary : That help consists of attending to important files and correspondence entrusted to them by the hon. Ministers. Then they are required to prepare notes on certain important matters as also about the speeches delivered on the floor of the House by the hon. Members for the use of the hon Ministers. Besides there are other multifarious duties which they are required to perform but I cannot make a mention of them.

Shri Prbaodh Chandra : The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has stated that attending to files is also one of the functions of the Parliamentary Secretaries. Is he aware of the fact that the duties entrusted to him do not include this?

Parliamentary Secretary : I admit that a Parliamentary Secretary may not be able to obtain files from a department directly. But if the hon. Minister wants his Parliamentary Secretary to go into certain files, then the latter can do so.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Will the hon Parliamentary Secretary kindly state whether any office or staff has been provided for the Parliamentary Secretaries? If so, where and how much?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes, staff has been provided for them.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please tell the House what private work do they perform in addition to the duties already enumerated by him? *(Laughter)*

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has stated that staff has been provided for the Parliamentary Secretaries. May I know how many clerks and stenographers have been provided for them?

Minister : If the hon. Member gives notice, necessary information will be collected for him.

Shri Virendra : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state the difference between the functions of the Parliamentary Secretaries and the Private Parliamentary Secretaries?

Minister : The hon. Member has himself been a Parliamentary Secretary for some time. I would refer him to the rules on the subject.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the Parliamentary Secretary aware that previously when there were seven Parliamentary Secretaries, each Parliamentary Secretary was provided with a peon and a steno? If so, may I know whether any steno or a chaprassi has now been given to the 13 present Parliamentary Secretaries or whether they themselves do the work of peons? (*Laughter*)

Minister : I have already replied to this question.

Depnty Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to withdraw the words 'whether they themselves do the work of peons'.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : There is no harm in saying that as the work of a peon is not considered to be a mean work.

Deputy Speaker : I quite realise that the work of a peon cannot be considered to be a mean job. I rather think that every person is a peon of his country and nation. But all the same I feel that the sense in which these words have been used by the hon. Member, is a reflection on the Parliamentary Secretaries. I would ask the hon. Member to withdraw them?

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; I withdraw those words, Madam.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is the hon. Minister for Public Works aware that the general impression among the hon Members and the public at large is that the appointment of these 13 Parliamentary Secretaries has been brought about with a view to buttress the tottering fabric of the Ministry? (*Laughter*).

Minister : This might be the impression of the hon. Member himself, but there is no such thing prevailing in the public or the hon. Members.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Will the hon. Minister kindly state whether any arrangements have been made to provide Hindi or Gurmukhi knowing staff for those Parliamentary Secretaries who are not conversant with the English language?

Minister : This is a first step towards popularising the Federal language.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether any separate offices have been provided to the Parliamentary Secretaries?

Minister : This question has already been replied to.

TOUR BY HON. MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS.

*2765. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the number of days the hon Ministers and the Heads of various Departments remained on tour during December, 1950 and January, 1951 ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) : A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table.†

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. I want to draw your attention to the fact that it is stated by Government in reply to those questions which reflect irregularities of the hon. Ministers that either the answers are not ready or that the statement is laid on the Table. Similarly a statment is stated to have been laid on the Table in regard to this question But it was not provided to me Now it has been passed on to me. I request you to permit me to go through it and then put supplementaries.

Deputy Speaker : I cannot grant such permission. I am sorry I have not got any remedy for the difficulty experienced by the hon. Member.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether it is not the responsibility of the hon. Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary

† Kept in the Library

to provide me with a statement before giving a reply to thi question on the floor of the House ?

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member's contention is right.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The statement which has been supplied to me indicates that the hon. Ministers undertake tours in the plains during the major part of the months of December and January when the winter is at its peak in Simla. May I know why their tours are few and far between during the Summer ?

Minister For Public Works : I cannot make any comparison since I am not in possession of any statistics regarding the tours undertaken by the hon. Ministers during the summer season.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I can say with the fullest responsibility that I possess figures regarding the tours of the hon. Ministers during the Summer months. I may state that the hon. Ministers hardly toured three to seven days a month during the Summer. But on the contrary during the Winter, particularly in December and January during which snow falls, the hon. Ministers tour twenty to twenty five days a month. Do I take it that during Summer they tour sparingly simply because they want to enjoy the bracing climate of Simla and avoid scorching heat of the plains ?

Minister : If an old man can work better in plains during the Winter, where is the harm in undertaking tours during December and January. I don't think there is any impropriety in it.

Deputy Speaker : I want to know whether the House would like to continue with this list of postponed questions tomorrow or not?

Hon. Members : We would like to continue with this very list.

Shri Virendra : But I hope the short notice questions will continue to be taken up as usual ?

Deputy Speaker : Yes, of course.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SALE OF OPIUM

742. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the quantity of opium purchased by the State Government during the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 respectively

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(b) (i) the cost price of the opium during each year ;

(ii) the cost price of the opium per seer during each year ;

(c) (i) the quantity of opium sold by the State Government during each of the years referred to in part (a) above ;

(ii) the selling price of opium per seer during each year ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
	Mds. Srs.	Mds Srs.	Mds. Srs.
(a)	387—0	348—0	306—30
(b) (i)	Rs 6,08,557-8-0	Rs. 5,21,130-0-0	Rs. 4,57,388-12-0
(ii)	Rs.39 5 0	Rs.37 7 0	Rs 37 5 0
	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.
(c) (i)	434—25	427—3	303—19 (up to the 31st January, 1951)
(ii)	Rs. 100 0 0	Rs. 100 0 0	Rs.100 0 0

RESTORATION OF JAGIR OF SARDAR BALWANT SINGH.

743. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the final decision, if any, arrived at by the Government regarding the restoration of confiscated Jagirs of S. Balwant Singh of village Malk Sukhi, District Amritsar referred to in unstarred question No. 554 put by me during the Autumn session 1950 ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh : The matter is still under the consideration of Government

SALARY ETC. DRAWN BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS IN THE STATE

744. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the salary per mensem drawn by each Head of Department of the state Government during the year 1947 ;

(b) the salary drawn by each of them for the month of July, 1947 ;

(c) the travelling allowance drawn by each of them from 15th August, 1947 to 31st Dec mber, 1947 ;

(d) the special pay per mensem, if any, drawn by each of them during the period mentioned in part (c) above ;

(e) the dearness allowance, temporary allowance, and other allowances drawn by each of them per mensem respectively during the period referred to in part (c) above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

SALARY ETC. DRAWN BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS IN THE STATE.

745. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) (i) the salary, dearness, temporary and other allowances respectively drawn per mensem by each Head of Department of the State Government during the year 1948 and 1949 separately ;

(ii) the average travelling allowance drawn by each of them per mensem during the year 1948 and 1949 separately ;

(b) the special pay per mensem, if any, drawn by each of the officers referred to in part (a) above during the y ars referred to above ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

GOVERNMENT OWNED MOTOR CARS ETC. IN THE STATE

746. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state

(a) the number of the Government owned motor cars, Jeeps, motor buses and motor trucks separately on 1st January

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

1948, 1st January 1949, 1st January 1950 and 1st January 1951, respectively ;

(b) the number of the vehicles of each category referred to in part (a) above in the custody of the various Departments of the State Government on 31st December 1950 ;

(c) (i) the number of the motor cars in each district on 1st March 1951 and the names and ranks of the officers in whose custody they were ;

(ii) the purpose for which these vehicles have been given to them in each case ;

(d) (i) the number of the jeep cars in each district on 1st March 1951 and the names of the officers with their ranks in whose custody they were ;

(ii) the purpose for which they were given to them ;

(e) whether any of the officers referred to in parts (c) and (d) above were also owning their private cars in addition to the vehicles referred to above ; if so, the reasons for giving them these vehicles ;

(f) whether any jeep cars or motor cars have been placed at the disposal of the Provincial Officers other than those referred to in parts (c) and (d) above ; if so their list together with their ranks ;

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh : The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

ROAD JOURNEY PERFORMED BY COMMISSIONERS OF AMBALA AND JULLUNDUR DIVISIONS.

747. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the extent of road journeys performed by each of the Commissioners of Ambala and Jullundur Divisions respectively during each month of the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 respectively.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The information is not available. The two Commissioners were paid a fixed Travelling

Allowance up to the middle of 1950 and were not required to maintain a record of the road journeys performed by them. Thereafter they were provided with Government motor vehicles.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS OF THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

748. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the average monthly pay, dearness allowance, temporary allowance and T. A. drawn by each of the Superintending Engineers of the Irrigation Department during the years 1947-48 (from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948), 1948-49 and 1949-50 and for the first 10 months of 1950-51 ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The information called for by the hon. Member will require to be collected from the local offices and will not be commensurate with the time and labour involved, and it would not be in the public interest to collect the information.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (B & R)

749. **Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Woks be pleased to state the average monthly pay, dearness allowance, temporary allowance, and travelling allowance drawn by each of the Superintending Engineers of the Public Works Department (Building and Roads) during the ears 1947-48 (from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948), 1948 49, and 1949 50 and for the first 10 months of 1950- 1 ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh : A statement is laid on the Table.†

RESOLUTION.

PARTITION OF COMMON LANDS.

Deputy Speaker : I would ask the hon. Minister for Revenue to conclude his speech on the resolution which was under discussion on 1st March, 1951 when the House rose.

†Kept in the Library.

Minister For Revenue (The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I have nothing more to say on it.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

[That this Assembly recommends to the Government that early steps be taken to see that common lands (shamlats) in the rural areas in the State are not partitioned in a way which puts to great trouble and hardship the non-proprietors, particularly Harijans, and the cattle of such people.)

The Assembly divided. Ayes : 6, Noes : 33.

AYES

Gubanta Singh, Master.
Mehar Chand, Chaudhri.
Ranbir Singh, Mehta.
Sajjan Singh, Sardar.
Sundar Lal, Chaudhri.
Sundar Singh, Chaudhri.

NOES

Amar Nath Vidyalankar, Shri.

Badlu Ram, Chaudhri.

Behari Lal Chanana, Shri.

Beli Ram, Thakur.

Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri.

Bhagwan Dass, Shri.

Bikram Chand, Dr.

Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar.

Durga Chand Kaushish, Shri.

Ganga Saran, Seth.

Inder Singh, Sardar.

Ishar Singh, Mujhail, The Hon. Sardar.

Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar.

Kabul Singh, Sardar.

Kedar Nath Saigal, Shri.

Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.

Mann Singh Jathedar, Sardar.

Narinder Singh, Sant.

Narotam Singh, The hon. Sardar.

Parkash Kaur, Shrimati Dr.

Piara Singh, Sardar.

Prabodh Chandra, Shri.

Ranjit Singh, The Hon. Captain.

Rattan Singh Tabib, Thri.

Samar Singh, Chaudhri.

Sant Ram Seth, Dr.

Sher Singh, Chadhri.

Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.

Shiv Singh, Sardar.

Sita Devi, Shrimati.

Sudarshan, Seth.

Tara Singh, Sardar.

Virendra, Shri.

SCHEDULED CASTES (REMOVAL OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY DISABILITIES) BILL.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Amritsar and Sialkot, General, Rural, Reserved Seat): I beg to move:

> That leave be granted to introduce the Punjab Scheduled Castes (Removal of Residential Property Disabilities) Bill

Madam, in asking for leave to introduce this Bill .. ..

Deputy Speaker: I cannot allow the hon. Member to make a speech as nobody has opposed the motion. He should introduce the Bill without a speech...... (*Interruptions*).

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: On a point of order, Madam. The hon. Member, Chaudhri Sundar Singh, wanted to speak on his motion and you did not allow him. I submit that he should not be robbed of his privilege to speak.

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member, Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, should know that I cannot give permission for anything against the rules, I appreciate that he is anxious to come to the rescue of Chaudhri Sundar Singh but I can assure him that so long as I am in the Chair, no injustice will be done to anybody in so far as his rights and privileges are concerned. I again repeat that no legislature can hope to dispose of the business before it if its members chose to conduct the proceedings. I, therefore, request Chaudhri Sahib to take care of his health and let me conduct the proceedings of the House.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: My point of order is not understood. I respect the appeal which the hon. Deputy Speaker has made to the Members of this House and I assure her that we on this side are prepared to give her every cooperation in conducting the business of the House. But when a principle and a privilege are involved, it is the duty of the Members of the House to draw the attention of the Chair and point out that the privileges of Members should not be jeopardised. My point of order is this. At the stage when the mover of the Bill was entitled to make a speech, he was asked to sit down. The point of order is that he rose subsequently when he had no right to speak. But when he made the motion he was entitled to speak. I only submit that it is not proper to stifle discussion and if a mistake has been made, it may even now be set right.

Deputy Speaker: The Secretary will read out the relevant rule.

Secretary: Rule 92 lays down :—

> If a motion for leave to introduce a bill is opposed, the Speaker after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the membe who moves and from the member who opposes the motion, may put the question without further debate.

It is only if the motion is opposed that the mover can make a brief explanatory statement.

Chaudhry Krishna Gopal Dutt: The question of discretion of the Speaker comes when the Bill is opposed. Perhaps the Member is not a loquacious Member. He is man of few words and should have been allowed to place his case before the House. If Bills are going to be moved and passed without any speech, it would be a great reflection on the rights of Members of this House.

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member does not know that I am still ignorant of the rules.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: On a point of ord r. The proceedings in this House are to be conducted according to ru es and regulations and where they are silent, according to conventions set up by similar sover· egin dem cratic Houses. The Ch ir being the final auth rity in inter· preting the rules, if the remarks made by the chair are factual, I think either she should withdr w her re n rks or vacate the Ch ir, because otherwise she will n t be doing justice when she does not understand the rules and regulations.

Deputy Speaker: I am very sorry that the hon. Member has-use discourteous and impolite language and that he does not know h w one should address one's colleagues. Does he think that because he does not like I shall vacate the Chair and relinquish the honour that the House has unanimously conferred upon me?

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Is it p rliamentary for the Chair to use the expression 'Jahil'?

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member should not try to take advantage of my leniency. If I am lenient I can be strict too I am extremely sorry to find that my courtesy and politeness are being misunderstood by some of the hon. Members. If used the word "Jahil" for myself it was only a way of saying things

I did not actually mean that I was a "Jahil". However, if my hon. Brother Mehta Ranbir Singh means to suggest that I should vacate the Chair, I am not going to do that. I have been unanimously elected to this Chair and it is the whole House who can remove me from this place. So far as my learned Brother Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt is concerned, he should rest assured that I would be ever prepared to rectify mistakes if any are committed by me But I respectfully request that my leniency should not be abused as I shall otherwise have to be rather strict.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Madam. I have not suggested that the Chair is "Jahil". I have only asked whether it is parliamentary for the Chair to use this word for herself.

Deputy Speaker: If the House permits me I may recite a couplet of which I am reminded at present. (Some hon. Members. By all means. Some other hon. Members. No, no.) The couplet is as follows.

इन बिगड़े दिमागों में घनी खुशियों के लच्छे हैं।

हमें पागल ही रहने दो कि हम पागल ही अच्छे हैं।

ਇਨ ਬਿਗੜੇ ਦਿਮਾਗੋਂ ਮੇਂ ਘਣੀ ਖੁਸ਼ੀਓਂ ਕੇ ਲਛੇ ਹੈਂ

ਹਮੇਂ ਪਾਗਲ ਹੀ ਰਹਿਨੇ ਦੋ ਕਿ ਹਮ ਪਾਗਲ ਹੀ ਅਛੇ ਹੈਂ

However, as hon. Mehta Ranbir Singh has not liked the idea of my using this word in respect of myself, I withdraw it.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : On a point of order, Madam. I mean to say that if an hon. Member has introduced a Bill he should be afforded an opportunity to explain that Bill. (Loud and incessant interruptions).

Shri Virendra : On a point of order, Madam. I wish to say that when a ruling has been given from the Chair, nobody has a right to comment upon that ruling.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Madam. I wish to know whether permission can be given to raise a point of order to an

[Sardar Bachan Singh]
hon. Member when some other hon. Member is already on his legs and is explaining his point of order.

Deputy Speaker: I assure hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh that the work will not begin till ruling has been given on his point of order.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: I wish to say that when hon. Chaudhri Sundar Singh introduced the Bill he should have been given some time to explain things. (At this time Deputy Speaker was consulting the Secretary of the Assembly) I shall have to discontinue my speech if Madam Deputy Speaker must talk to the Secretary. (Secretary I have to answer when hon. Deputy Speaker wants to know something from me) Madam, I was saying that the hon. Chaudhri Sundar Singh should have been given some time to explain his Bill. I think it is for the first time in this House that opportunity is not being given to an hon. Member to explain the necessity of the Bill at the introduction stage. A rule has been quoted and on the basis of that rule it has been held that he could not be permitted to speak I think it was not fair to hon Chaudhri Sundar Singh. All things have not to be done according to the rules. Many times rules have to be superseded by conventions and I am in a position to say that an hon. Member is always given time to explain the necessity for his Bill by convention.

Deputy Speaker: My hon. and learned Brother Chaudhri Lahri Singh has not only read law but has been applying it for a very long time I wonder why he does not understand that when definite rules are there how is it possible to accommodate conventions. I think if we begin to follow the conventions we will not be able to transact any work. My hon. Brother Chaudhri Lahri Singh has a very soft corner for hon. Chaudhri Sundar Singh at this time but it does not appear to be a genuine sympathy. If he wishes to give a positive proof of it he should give his minister-ship to him if and when he gets it.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I rise on a point of order. I want the ruling of the Chair on the point that when a Member raises a point of order should it be stated in very brief and precise words or can there be a speech explaining the point he wants to raise?

Deputy Speaker: As regards the point of order raised by Mehta Ranbir Singh, I agree with him that while raising a point of order,

one should be very brief but here every one begins to make lengthy speeches. There is a saying in Punjabi :

इक नूं वग्गे वा हटके केहड़ा

वेहड़े वग्गे वा हटावे केहड़ा

ਇਕ ਨੂੰ ਵਗੇ ਵਾ ਹਟਕੇ ਵਿਹੜਾ

ਵਿਹੜੇ ਵਗੀ ਵਾ ਹਟਾਏ ਕਿਹੜਾ ।

In this House, I find, that every hon. Member begins to make long speeches in support of his point of order.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: I submit that it is not within the jurisdiction of the Speaker of the House not to allow the mover of the Bill to make any speech on the subject of his Bill, while introducing it. The discretion is open to the hon. Speaker only in cases, as stated in Rule 92, when the Bill is opposed by the Government or any Member. The situation at present in the House is that a Member moves a Bill which is not opposed by the Government or any other Member of the House. Discretion of the hon. Speaker can come to be exercised only if the motion to introduce the Bill is opposed. I will read the words of the Rule :

> If a motion for leave to introduce a bill is opposed, the Speaker after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the member who moves and from the member who opposes the motion, may put the question without further debate.

My submission is that the discretion of the Speaker can be exercised only if the Bill is opposed, in this case the Bill was not opposed, so it was not open to the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker to stifle the discussion on the subject by not allowing the mover of the Bill to make a speech. May I, therefore, draw the attention of the Chair to the very important issue of the rights and privileges of the Members of the House involved in this case. I beg of her to protect the privileges and rights of the Members so that they may not be victims even of the Speaker of the House. I would again request the Chair to consider this question before giving a ruling. I request the Deputy Speaker to call upon Chaudhri Sundar Singh to exercise his right of speech on the motion now before the house

Deputy Speaker : I admire the beautiful English spoken by hon. Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt, but I am convinced that I have followed

[Deputy Speaker]
the correct procedure. As nobody was opposed to the motion, there was no necessity of any speech on it. If Chaudhri Sahib wants me to alter this procedure now, another hon Member may some day ask me to change it again. For these reasons I stick to the ruling already given by me.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt: It is my duty to bow before your ruling and I give my respectful obedience to it. But the House and the Chair should note that any subsequent proceedings in connection with this Bill will be illegal and it will be open to any Member of the House or any man in the State to approach the High Court on this point.

Deputy Speaker: I have heard the arguments and given my ruling after full consideration.

Question is :

That leave be granted to introduce the Punjab Scheduled Castes (Removal of Residential Property Disabilities) Bill.

The Motion was carried.

Deputy Seaker : The hon. Member should now introduce the Bill,

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : I introduce the Punjab Scheduled Castes (Removal of Residential Property Disabilities) Bill.

THE SIKH GURDWARAS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sant Narindar Singh (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Montgomery East, Sikh, Rural) : I beg to move :

That leave be granted to introduce the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill.

The motion was carried.

Sant Narindar Singh : I introduce the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: Madam Deputy Speaker, am I entitled to make a speech on the motion for introduction of the Bill?

Deputy Speaker: What will the hon. Member speak about, when nobody in the House is opposed to this motion?

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: According to Rule 92 of the Rules of Procedure, if motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the mover can make a brief explanatory statement. When that stage is over and the next motion introducing the Bill is moved......

Deputy Speaker: That is not a motion.

Some hon. Members: No speech can be made at this stage.

Deputy Speaker: I don't want help from so many sides.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: When a point of law is involved, the hon. Deputy Speaker should have no objection to hon. Members giving their suggestions with regard to it.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar: I was submitting that any proposition which has to be decided on the basis of votes, is called a motion. When an hon. Member asks for leave to introduce a Bill, he has a right to deliver a speech in support of his motion, if the Bill is opposed. In that case votes are taken to determine whether the hon. Member has the leave to introduce the Bill or not. After leave to introduce a Bill has been granted, it has to be introduced. At that stage also, the hon. Member introducing the Bill has a right to make a speech in support of his Bill.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: At first leave to introduce the Bill was asked for and it was granted by the House. Now the hon. Member has introduced the Bill. It is a mere act, it is not a motion. We will be able to discuss the Bill when motion for its consideration is moved. At this stage, we can make no speeches.

PUNJAB HINDU DHARAM ASTHAN BILL.

(Deputy Speaker called upon Chaudhri Kartar Singh to move the next motion standing in his name. He was not present in the House. Seth Sudarshan rose to move the motion asking for leave to introduce the Punjab Hindu Dharam Asthan Bill.)

Seth Sudarshan: As this Bill stands in my name also, I beg to ask for leave to introduce it.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, Madam, Chaudhri Kartar Singh is not present in the House. The Rules of Procedure lay down that no Member other than that in whose name a Bill stands can introduce it unless he has been authorised in writing to do so.

Deputy Speaker : As Chaudhri Kartar Singh is not present, the House should proceed with the next item.

RESOLUTION

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore General, Rural) (*Hindustani*): I move :

> That in view of the prevailing high price level and the low purchasing power in the State, this Assembly recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to reduce the sales tax from Rs. 3/2/- per cent to Re. 1/- per cent forthwith.

Madam, you are aware that from times immemorial taxes have been imposed by the Governments, whether they were autocratic or democratic or any other forms of Government. In the old times, taxes were imposed on the people because the rulers considered it their divine right to live in luxury by means of the money collected from the people in the shape of taxes. Gradually this outlook underwent some change, because the people began to feel that all human beings are alike and nobody can be allowed to live in luxury at the cost of others. Coming down to the modern times the idea of taxation has ceased to be regarded as a sort of punishment which is inflicted on the people to enable the rulers to live in luxury. Taxes are now regarded as the means for the welfare of the people. This is the idea of a welfare State. If the taxes are not utilized for the welfare of the society, the State cannot be called a welfare State. Then naturally the question arises as to who should pay the taxes. Capacity to pay taxes is an important thing in this connection. Taxes should not be levied on the people who are poor and hungry and who cannot afford to give any facility to their children, If taxes are levied on such poor people who are poor and hungry and who cannot afford to give any facility to their children, and the rich are allowed to roll in luxuries without having to pay any taxes, the State cannot be called a welfare State. It is from this point of view that I shall discuss the Sales Tax.

When sales tax was first levied in the united Punjab under the regime of the Unionist Government, the idea was to make the urbanites and the trader class pay something to the provincial exchequer. The imposition of this tax was followed by a great agitation against it and some of the hon. Members of this house joined that agitation. It used to be said then that it was not proper to remove the turban of one man to be put on the head of another. People used to say at that time that the basis of this tax was the divide-and-rule policy of the British Government. But now the things are different. Although the hon. Chief Minister said in his Budget speech that he wanted to spend within the income of the Government, yet I find that real freedom has come to the people who are connected with the Government, directly or indirectly; whether they are in the services or depot holders or Government contractors The people who are in services are getting many times higher salaries today than they got before the partition. On the other hand, the poor people who were groaning under the burden of taxes in the past, hoped that they would get some relief after the advent of independence of the country. But their hopes have been now belied. Whenever there is a question of giving any relief to the poor people, it is said that the Government is faced with a crisis. But there is no crisis when there is the question of salaries of big officers and their travelling allowances. After all what is the justification for such a high rate of sales tax as Rs. 3 2-0 per cent. This rate is higher than even the rate of land revenue. Besides in the case of land revenue the Government allows some commission to the collectors of the land revenue such as Lambardars. But in the case of sales tax. no such commission is allowed. And then the tax is imposed irrespective of whether anybody has the capacity to pay or not. If a poor man wants to purchase cloth to cover the body of his child, he has to pay the sales tax at the rate of two pice a rupee. Under these circumstances, he accuses the trader. Naturally there arise conflicts between the consumers and the traders. But the fact is that both are the victims of the tyranny of the Government. The trader gets no commission for the collection of this tax. Not only that, the trader is regarded as dishonest The officers of the Government who want to get promotions try to get the maximum sales tax from the traders even unfairly. This tax not only creates difficulties for the traders, but also puts extra burden on the poor peasants and labourers. They blame the traders and consequently

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

there are conflicts. In this way, the energies of the people are spent on futile conflicts and not on constructive activities.

Just as there are black sheep among the services, there are black sheep among the traders as well. Under present circumstances when all the necessities of life have been taxed, the traders get impetus to evade the tax. The price index today in our country stands at 415 as compared with 339 which was last year. In spite of this rise in prices, the rate of sales tax is being maintained at Rs. 3-2-0 per cent. The result is that the people get impetus to evade the tax which is excessive. I have myself seen and the Government should also see if it has eyes that as compared with last year, no Khandsari sugar has been sold this year in Khanna and Ludhiana markets. Last year, thousands of bags of Khandsari sugar worth lakhs of rupees were sold in these markets But this year not a single bag arrived in the market for open sale. All this has been done to evade the sales tax. The fact of the matter is that the policy of the Government is wrong. People are made to pay 25 annas for the purchase of Khandsari worth Rs. 50 This rate is exorbitant and tempts traders to evade the tax.

If the Government does something solid for the people nobody would mind paying taxes. I wish to submit that the Government should pay increased attention towards the problems facing the State. About sixty lakhs of persons have come over from Pakistan and they are unable to stand on their legs. Even the original residents of this place are finding it difficult to make any progress. The conditions prevailing in this State are going from bad to worse. But our Government, instead of doing anything by way of improving the financial position of the people, is bent upon increasing the burden of taxation only. The population of our State is about one crore twenty six lakhs while the income of the Government from various forms of taxation is sixteen crores seventy lakhs. If we compare these with the figures of U.P. we will find that there the population is six crores ten lakhs and the income of the State is about fifty five crores. The fact that in our State we have lakhs of people who were displaced from Pakistan and that we have not made any progress in the sphere of industry and agriculture, etc., as compared with U.P., leads to the conclusion that the burden of taxation in our State is too heavy for the ordinary people to bear. In spite of the fact that our people have borne hardships after partition and have suffered

economically the taxation per head has increased almost to double of what it was before partition and it is Rs 13/- per head as against Rs. 9/- per head in U.P.

Deputy Speaker: Please be relevant to the topic under discussion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Madam, what I wish to submit is that the Sales tax is a burden upon the consumer whose back is already broken. Some of my hon. Friends on the Treasury Benches have stated that it is not possible for a Government to run the administration without resorting to taxation. My suggestion to them is that all the unnecessary and extravagant expenses should be cut down. The top heavy administration should be reduced so as to effect savings. The expenditure which our Government is incurring on the services is too heavy as compared with the capacity of the tax payer to pay taxes. As a matter of fact the public is the master of the house and the services are in the position of a servant. If in a house the servant is getting more than the master how can the house flourish ? But such is the state of affairs in our State that no attention is paid to the capacity of the tax-payer to pay the taxes. If we look to other countries of the world we will notice that nowhere are the Finances so lavishly spent on administration. Here we see that the beneficient departments are starved. The resolution urging compulsory education for all children in the State passed unanimously by the House has not been implemented by the Government. I doubt the honesty of our Government because it does not want the masses to become educated and intelligent. In my opinion this is because persons of doubtful ability are at the helm of affairs and they are afraid lest the power might be wrested from them if people at large get education. The principle of taxation is that if taxes are to be increased beneficent expenditure should also be increased. Otherwise there is no justification for them. But unfortunately, the policy of our Government appears to be quite the contrary. It is bent upon keeping the people poor so that their chairs may be safe After the achievement of independence it is the duty of the party in power to serve the people so that the country may make rapid strides towards progress and happiness. The need of the hour is that the burden of taxation should not fall on the weak shoulders of the poor. Only those persons and classes should be taxed who are in a position to bear the burden. Wasteful expenditure should be reduced and new sources of augmenting the revenues should

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

be tapped on an equitable basis. In this matter it will not be out of place to give some suggestions to the Government which may be useful to it. About three years back a provision was made in the Budget that a cement factory should be installed But I am sorry to note that no steps have been taken by the Government in this matter. It was, in fact, a very useful scheme. After two or three years it could save the very cost of its construction and yield profits to the State. I have a doubt in my mind that our Government is the agent of the capitalists and it is getting perhaps commissions from them. Otherwise why is it that it does not launch such useful schemes ?

Another matter which the hon. Members should note is that for sometime past our weavers in the villages are sitting idle because they are not getting cotten yarn. The Government should try to supply cotten yarn to them so that their energies may not fritter away. Nationalization of Transport is another useful activity which the State should undertake without any loss of time.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member is irrelevant

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, my submission is that by undertaking such activities the Government can find enough of finances for running the administration and that it need not burden the poor people with unnecessary taxes like the sales tax. Our neighbour state, U.P. has made experiments in such things and it has succeded to a large extent, in getting profits out of nationalizing transport etc. Why should we not try to do so? It is regrettable that instead of doing such things those in power are frittering away their energies on matters like sale of shares, in newspapers like the 'Daily Ajit', to the Transport Operators. I won't be wrong in saying that instead of looking to the interests of those who have put them in the saddle our Ministers are after their personal interests.

(At this Stage the Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Chaudhri Lahri Singh, a member of the Panel of Chairmen)

If it is our desire to make democracy a success in our country we should try to win the confidence of the people, by doing such things only which really save the interests of the poor. Extravagant expenditure should be cut down and taxes should be imposed only after studying the capacity of the tax payers. But our Government is spending like a spoilt child.

Mr Chairman : The hon. Member is not relevant

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Well, Sir, the relevancy arises out of this facts that the sales tax is an all pervading tax. It affects the whole population of the State. It is in fact a consumer's tax and it is a misnomer to call it by its present nomenclature. A peasant or a labourer has to pay the sales tax on all the purchases that he makes in the market. Now my submission is that there would have been some justification for imposing this tax on him if his income too had increased ten times to that of which existed in 1939. As a matter of fact I would not have offered opposition to the imposition of this tax at the present rate, had the income of the peasants and other poor consumers increased considerably. I think it is the rich people and the high officers whose incomes have gone up manifold. But so far as the other people in the State, whose number exceeds even a crore, are concerned, they are suffering from acute poverty, because they do not possess sufficient means of income, which may enable them to pay the sales tax comfortably. I, therefore, consider this tax as a most improper tax. Since the incidence of this tax is very heavy, I have proposed in this resolution that in view of the prevailing high prices and the low purchasing power of the people, the Government should take necessary steps to reduce the sales tax from Rs. 3/2 per cent to Rs. 1/- per cent forthwith.

Then, Sir, whenever we put forward any proposal for the reduction of a certain tax, the Government at once comes with a handy reply that the reduction in the tax would render the Budget into a deficit one and it would become well nigh impossible for it to carry on the administration. So what it says is, that it would accept the proposal for the reduction of a tax, provided an altern tive source of revenue is suggested to it. So I would like to meet this objection of the Government and suggest the methods by which a reduction in the sales tax could be effected, as proposed, and yet the Budget would not become deficit. The first thing is that Government should bring about economy of expenditure in the departments Then taxes should be levied in such a manner that thev do not prove a burden to the people. Besides this Government should tap other sources of income, for instance it should undertake such profitable concerns, like the setting up of a cement factory, as may bring prosperity to the people of the State and also good amount of revenues to it.

Mr. Chairman : Please state the relevancy of your argument to the subject.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : As you are aware, Sir, the reduction in the tax means decrease in the revenues or in other words the Budget becomes deficit. So with a view to effect a reduction in the sales tax and at the same time to keep the Budget balanced, I must make certain suggestions to achieve the desired object. So here lies the relevancy of my argument. I may submit that I am not opposing the incidence of sales tax at Rs. 3/2 per cent, simply for the sake of opposition. But if I suggest its scaling down, I also want to make constructive suggestions to balance the Budget by making good the loss of revenues thus caused. So I was submitting that in the first instance expenditure on the departments should be reduced by judicious economy. Then as I have already stated the Government should start some concerns on commercial basis Besides this, Government should stop spending on the proposed capital at Chandigarh which is not a productive scheme.

Mr Chairman : The hon. Member is irrelevant. He should not go into details.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Very well, Sir. I submit that the incidence of the sales tax is unduly heavy and it must be lowered to afford relief to the consumer. Besides, it should be imposed at such a stage, where its collection is easy and at the same time its evasion is not possible. Now what happens is this. A clever person, be he a consumer or a trader easily evades the payment of the sales tax and it is honest class of persons who is made to pay it, and it is proving a great hardship to them since it is not levied at one stage, certain class of people have made it a regular source of income for them, because they themselves do not pay this tax while they charge it from the consumers. I, therefore, feel that if sales tax is reduced according to my proposal, the people with smaller incomes will be afforded a great relief and I think that in that case, the realisation of this tax will be facilitated. I am sure that the proposed reduction will not bring about a great fall in the revenues of the Government, but people with low incomes will certainly stand to benefit a lot. With these words I close my remarks, but if this useful resolution meets with any opposition in the House, then I will have a right of reply for the rebuttal of arguments advanced against it

Mr Chairman : Motion moved :

> That in view of the prevailing high price level and the low purchasing power in the State, this Assembly recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to reduce the sales tax from Rs 3/2 per cent to Re. 1/- per cent forthwith.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana (Ex-Member West Punjab Legislative Assembly representing South East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, the resolution now before the House does not bear any relation to the merits of the principle of the sales tax. I would, therefore, be careful to confine my remarks to the merits of the enforcement of this tax. Now this resolution seeks a reduction in the incidence of sales tax from Rs. 3/2 per cent to Re. 1/- per cent. In this connection I may point out that when this tax was enforced in the United Punjab, a great agitation was started by the traders to oppose it. They presented their case in this way that so far as imposition of this tax was concerned, they had no objection to the extension of their cooperation to the Government in this respect, provided their difficulties arising out of the enforcement of the tax were removed. Now their position is this. If a reasonable tax at a reasonable rate can be realised from the public in a reasonable manner, then so far as the traders are concerned, they are prepared to contribute their share willingly. I submit that when the Sales Tax Act was passed in October, 1948, I had made it clear that in view of the shattered financial condition of the State, the traders would not lag behind in making their full share of contribution to the State and would be prepared to extend their hand of cooperation. Since the finances of the State had been depleted due to partition and huge responsibility lay on the Government to rehabilitate lakhs of displaced persons, and the economy of the State, the traders thought it advisable not to offer any obstruction in the way of the Government for raising funds by means of imposition of the sales tax. Besides, we put forward a certain number of amendments to be incorporated in the Bill, when it was being discussed on the floor of the House in October, 1948. Then after its emergence from the select committee, the representatives of the trading community in this House offered their general support to it lest any opposition, however justified and genuine it might be from their side, should be misconstrued by the Government or the people at large, as failure on the part of the traders to make their share of contribution at such a critical juncture. It may also be mentioned in this connection, that the Bill, as passed by the Assembly, did not contain any specific provision fixing the rate of sales tax. As a matter of fact the present rate of sales tax at Rs. 3/2 per cent was enforced by the Government through a notification after the General Sales Tax Act was brought on the Statute Book.

(*At this stage Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair*)

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

So far as the acceptance of the principle of sales tax is concerned, there is no doubt that this Assembly agreed to the levy of this tax but it never committed itself in any way to accept its present rate. We have, therefore, to see whether this rate is justifiable in view of the present economic condition of the people. As I said in the year 1948 that it was equally the responsibility of the Members of this House to see how this measure was passed as the incidence of the tax was expected to fall mostly on the traders and the consumers. I will, therefore, again repeat that it is our duty to consider this matter seriously as it greatly affects the interests of the consumers. We have to see what attitude the Government adopts in the party meeting while discussing this resolution. It is just possible that this resolution may be turned down by the Government but some of the hon. Members feel that they must raise their emphatic voice to persuade the Government to reduce the rate in view of the prevailing high price level and the low purchasing power in the State. Keeping in view these facts, I would like to make a few observations in this connection without taking much time of the House. Firstly, the Government fixed the rate of Rs 3/2/- per cent by notification without consulting the Assembly when the situation in the State was abnormal. Now when the financial position of the State is sound as mentioned by the hon. Chief Minister in his Budget speech I would appeal to the Government to make substantial reduction in the rate of Sales Tax. Secondly, I would draw the attention of the Government that this question to lower the rate has not been raised for the first time but as soon as the conditions in the State became somewhat stable in the year 1949 the beoparis and the consumers made representations to the Government to make 50 per cent reduction in the rate of sales tax. So it cannot be said that this is an innovation at this stage as people have been pressing their demand for reduction even before this. Without going into the history of the origin of the sales tax the Advisory Committee which was set up to go into the question and consisted of official and non-official members, in its resolution dated the 4th February 1951, recommended that the matter should be brought to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister for necessary action. This resolution is a lengthy one and I would not like to take much time of the House by reading its contents. The sum and substance of this resolution is that which I have stated above. It is, therefore, amply clear that the demand as envisaged in the present resolution is not a new one but has been brought to the notice of the Government from time to time. It was the duty of the Government to have

prepared the Budget for this year accordingly keeping in view the pressing demand of the beoparis and consumers for reduction in the rate of tax. I would submit Madam, that in view of the then financial situation and abnormal conditions we did not oppose it and in fact co-operated with the Government even at the risk of losing our reputation. At that time even according to the Government expectation the tax was estimated to yield about 60 to 75 lakhs of rupees. But now when the yield has amounted to 175 lakhs there is a clear case for making substantial reduction in the rate of the tax. I would, however, refrain from making any comments upon the various irregularities that are committed in the collection of this tax and the tactics which are adopted to realize the maximum amount. If I were to advance such arguments at this stage it would adversely affect my claim for reduction in the rate of tax. Granting therefore, that the collection has been made in a legal and proper way I would request the Government that if the reduction demanded in the resolution cannot be affected in toto it may be affected at least by 50 per cent.

Madam, there are such fundamental defects in the structure, scope, range and the method and manner of collection of this taxation as to make it almost impossible for any honest dealer to carry on his business. The result is that they are going under and those who are dishonest are flourishing. The enforcement of the provisions of the Sales Tax Act is such that no honest dealer can carry on his business any longer. I admit that its amendment in a suitable manner will require some time and it is for this reason that I urge the Government to try its utmost to remove those hardships and difficulties which are today standing in the way of honest and fair minded dealers continuing their business. It is in the interest of the Government, the general public as also the trading community that a reduction is made in the rate of the Tax.

Another important matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is that the present method of multi-stage taxation has resulted in considerable hardship for the small and petty dealers who were formerly outside the purview of this taxation. The number of dealers in case of conversion from all stage tax to one point tax, should have been reduced to one fourth assuming the number of stages to be four while actually what happens is that the number of assesees for the portion of the East Punjab remains the

[Shri Behari Lall Chanana]
same i. e. about 28,000, as was in the United Punjab when there was multi-point tax.

Leaving aside the fact that it is a refugee province, that its economy has been scattered as a result of the partition, that there is not much business left here, that a large proportion of the traders are refugees, what I ask is, is it fair and just to entrust such a large majority of dealers, almost all of them, big and small, with the work of collection of this tax. The number of dealers in case of a single-point tax in this State should not be more than three thousand. But at present the number of dealers entrusted with its collection is in the neighbourhood of 30,000. What I want to urge is that fairness demands that small traders should be exempted from this liability. I don't think it necessary at this occasion to dwell on the other aspects of the question, namely, wrong administration, over-collections and arbitrary assessment -defects which tend to make even the most reasonable taxation measure obnoxious.

Yet, from another point of view my submission is that it is unfair for our Government to follow the Bombay model for fixing the quantum of rate.

There is no comparison between the paying capacity and standard of living of the people there and the people in this truncated province whose economy has been shattered as a whole as a result of the partition and whose original inhabitants are in no way in a better condition than the refugees from West Punjab. This is in fact a direct tax on the consumers and keeping in view the economic condition of the people in our State I doubt if the Government is justified in continuing its present rate.

The standard of living at Calcutta and Bombay is much higher than that of other places in their respective States. For example in Bengal barring Calcutta there is hardly a town where a dealer requires registration and therefore the imposition of sales tax in Calcutta at these rates does not affect the rest of the State. But to apply the Bombay or Calcutta rates in the Punjab affects the whole of the State uniformly and it is not fair to compare the standard of living of the whole of our State with that of the Presidency Towns of Calcutta and Bombay. In these circumstances I respectfully request that the sales tax as has been imposed at present be reduced without any further delay. If it is not reduced I may be excused if I say that the

discontent among the traders will increase so much that they may refuse the payment of the tax altogether. In my opinion this resolution suggests a very good compromise between the Government on the one hand and the consumers and the traders on the other. The acceptance of this resolution will also greatly help in bringing back the trade which is now being usurped by Delhi and Himachal Pradesh for avoiding sales tax to this State. With these words, I invite the Government to pay a serious consideration to the principle underlying the demand made in the resolution.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : (Ex Member West Punjab Assembly Representing Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Madam, in the Constitution of India which has been framed after the liberation of our country from the foreign yoke we have aimed to establish a classless society in the country. In order to establish this classless society and maintain the independence of the country, I think it is incumbent on every citizen to contribute his humble mite by way of some tax. My hon. Friends are wrong if they suggest that the imposition of indirect taxation is uncalled for and unfair. At any rate I have no doubt that imposition of indirect taxation in the form of sales tax is very proper as every citizen of the State is made to feel in this manner the duty and responsibility that he owes to the country. And in case there are people who are not in a position to pay large amounts by way of this tax they should not go in for such goods in large quantities on which such tax is payable. They should mostly make use of country-made things e. g. ' Khaddar" etc. on which no sales tax is to be paid.

Madam, it has been remarked that the standard of living of this State is not as high as that of some other States. I do not agree with this view. I am of the opinion that our standard of living is much higher in comparison with that of other States. We, unlike the citizens of other States of the country, do not begin to show signs of age at 34 or 35. We dress and eat much better than the people of other States. As a matter of fact people of other States feel envious of us so far as our standard of living goes.

Madam, through you I wish to explain to the House the two varieties of taxation and show as to which variety requires to be reduced. There are two varieties of taxation, namely, (i) the direct taxation and (ii) the indirect taxation. I am of the opinion that if taxes are

[Sardar Dalip Singh Kang]
to be reduced reduction should be affected in direct taxes e. g. land revenue. If anybody deserves some relief it is the poor zamindar who holds a small area of land. The Government may reduce the land revenue which he is called upon to pay. But this can only be done if funds can be raised from other sources. We all know that abiana had to be increased by 50 per cent as no funds could come forth from any other source. If we reduce the sales tax it means that we will not be able to give relief to the poor zamindars and that is what nobody should desire.

Madam, it has been suggested that we should be enabled to use our own cotton and that we should not sell it to the mill-owners in Bombay. I think that there is no necessity for us to set up more cotton mills as we already have so many.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : How many of them are to be found in this State ?

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : I am talking of India as a whole. On an all-India basis I can say that we have less cotton and more cotton mills My hon. Friends should know that the Bombay mill-owners are prepared to pay us even a rupee or two more per maund than what is being paid by them at present.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : My hon. Friend is a "Jat Boot".

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : My hon. Friend will cry if the Jat strickes his boot against him.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : On a point of order, Madam. The hon. Member should withdraw his words.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : I have no hesitation in withdrawing my words if hon. Mehta Ranbir Singh withdraws his words. We should view this problem from the point of view of the economy of the State and the whole country. At present it is being tried to get sales tax levied in Pepsu also, because its absence in that State is causing loss to the trade of our State. It has been imposed in Delhi also In none of the States the rate of Sales Tax is lower than Rs. 3-2-0 per cent. To say that it should be reduced to one rupee per cent is nothing but an irresponsible demand. Sales Tax can be either at one stage or at all stages. In the United Punjab, sales tax was levied at all stages. At the request of traders,

it was levied at one stage only in this State. This was done for the benefit of the traders. In a democratic country like England sales tax is levied at the rate of twenty-five per cent while here we have been asked to reduce it from Rs 3-2-0 to one rupee per cent. In this connection, I beg to point out that most of the traders maintain double accounts. Sometimes they do not issue cash memos for the articles sold by them. When a customer demands a cash memo, they say that they had forgotten to include sales tax in it. They adopt various means to evade payment of sales tax. They do not give up their habit of making illegal profits but come forward with the demand that the rate of sales tax should be lowered. In support of this demand, they say that it affects the consumer. While the consumers are making no such complaint, the traders seem to feel more for them Some hon. Members suggested that motor transport should be nationalized and others recommended the setting up of a cement factory in the State.

Shri Virendra : On a point of order, Madam. I wish to draw your attention to the fact that when such an important subject is being discussed, not a single Minister is present. Is it not an insult to the whole House ?

Deputy Speaker : Can the hon. Member suggest any method by which I can compel the hon. Ministers to remain in their seats.

Shri Virendra : You have every power to do that.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : I wish to point out that there is nobody in the House who may convey the views of the hon. Members to the Ministers.

Deputy Speaker : I beg to submit that it is not only the duty of the hon. Ministers to be present in the House but it would be good for them as well as for the State, if they hear the views of hon. Members. I shall request them to remain in the House.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : I beg to point out that the hon. Chief Minister and the hon. Minister for Revenue have gone to Ambala where they had to meet the President of the Indian National Congress.

Deputy Speaker : I shall request the Parliamentary Secretary to avoid reference to the purpose for which the hon. Ministers have gone out of Simla, because that might give rise to further discussion.

[Deputy Speaker]
It would, however, be good if the hon. Ministers remain present in the House.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Some of them are in the lobbies where they are obtaining signatures of hon. Members.

Deputy Speaker : I shall request the hon. Member not to refer to such matters.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : I was submitting that the businessmen do not perform their duty of realizing this tax and paying it to the Government. As majority of the people are illiterate, they do not issue cash memos in most of the cases. On the other hand they charge sales tax from the consumers even on those articles which are exempt from it. Instead of helping the Government in the realization of this tax they adopt all possible means of avoiding it, even if they have to spend an equal amount in that process. If such practices are adopted in democratic countries, the administration cannot be carried on. In a country like England, if the rate of a tax were ninety nine per cent, the people would pay it to the Government. In our country, every attempt is made to evade its payment. The traders held a meeting at which those hon. Members who spoke in favour of this resolution were also present, and they passed a resolution requesting the Government to levy sales tax at one stage only. The Government acceded to that demand. It is not fair that those very persons who made a particular demand at that meeting should say other things here. This demand for reduction of sales tax is uncalled-for and the finances of this State demand that such taxes should not be decreased. If at some stage, the finance of the State permit reduction of taxes, only those taxes should be reduced or abolished which are a burden for the poor people. With these words, I oppose this resolution.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : During the reign of the Unionist Government, when the General Sales Tax was introduced in the United Punjab, Chaudhri Tikka Ram who was Parliamentary Secretary, moved an amendment on behalf of the Government While moving that amendment, he stated that the Government felt that the rate of four annas per cent as proposed in the Bill was too heavy for the petty shopkeepers and it was considered desirable to reduce it to two annas per cent. He moved that—

if the turnover exceeds five thousand rupees but does not exceed ten thousand rupees per annum	Two annas for every one hundred rupees or fraction thereof.

While speaking on the amendment, he said :—

> This amendment has been moved in order to meet the serious objection raised by my hon. Friends opposite with regard to the rate of tax. It has been stated that the rate of tax as provided in the Bill is extremely high and hence the small dealers would be hard hit. Now with a view to give relief to the small dealers, Government have proposed through this amendment that instead of levying a flat rate of Rs. 10 for turnovers ranging from five to ten thousand rupees, a tax at the rate of two annas for turnover of every one hundred rupees be imposed. This would result in making the tax more equitable than before.

Again, Sardar Ujjal Singh, while speaking on the amendment moved by Chaudhri Tikka Ram, said as follows :—

> I give my whole-hearted support to the amendment moved by my hon. friend on this side. The object has been made clear by the mover of the amendment. It gives some relief to the small dealer. The clause as it stands does not give relief to the small dealer which it is desirable he should get.

At that time, even 4 annas per cent which dealers had to pay was considered excessive. But to-day I am surprised to hear from a responsible Member of the Party that not to speak of Rs. 3-2-0 per cent, the dealers should be prepared to pay even 90 per cent to the Government. Now, Madam, y u should imagine the difference between the position which then was and now is. Rao Pohop Singh in his speech at that time said as follows :

> I may also submit that the pitch of the tax is not very high, but if my hon. friends over there impress upon the Government and convince them that it is high, the Government may lower it, as our hon. Premier has done with regard to the Urban Immovable Property Tax. My hon friends opposite might remember that the hon. Premier lowered the percentage from 20 to 10 on account of the public opinion expressed through meetings held outside the Mochi and Delhi Gates,. I admit that these public meetings are effective enough and they have power to mould the Goverment's view.

At that time, the Unionist Government which was a Government of zamindars reduced the rate of Urban Immovable Property Tax from 20 per cent to 10 per cent taking into consideration the public opinion voiced through meetings held at Mochi Gate and Delhi Gate. This is the regard that was given to public opinion then. What is the

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

position now ? Some people think that this tax of Rs 3-2-0 is levied on the traders just as 4 annas per cent was levied on them during the time of the Unionist Ministry. This is a misconception. The fact is that this tax does not fall on the traders. I admit that it puts the traders also to some inconvenience and hardship. This Congress Government has forced thousands of persons to work gratis for it All the world over, people are paid for the work that they are called upon to do But here the shopkeepers have to collect this tax without getting anything in return for this work. Here is the case of the man who employs a servant and gets maximum work out of him without giving him food and clothing in return ; but when he asks for anything he is dubbed as inefficient. Similarly, the traders are being accused without paying them for the work of collection of this Sales Tax. What was the position when this sales tax was introduced in the United Punjab ? The late Sir Chhotu Ram who was Development Minister at that time said as follows in his speech :

> A responsible Government is now in power and will proceed according to the dictates of the electorate. If the electorate comes to the conclusion that it is to the best advantage of the agricultural classes that land revenue should be assessed on the principle of income tax assessment, the Government of the day will have to bow to it.

He said that if the electorate of the whole province would desire that land revenue be assessed on the basis of the assessment of income tax the Government would have to act accordingly. What is the position today ? This tax is in fact levied on the poorest among the peasants and labourers and Harijans. I have got with me this schedule of things which have been exempted from the incidence of the sales tax. There are about 49 commodities such as wheat, wheat flour, maize, maize flour etc. and finally the preparations on the shops of *halwais*, which have been exempted from this tax If sales tax were to be levied on these commodities, necessarily the incidence of the tax would fall on the consumers and not on the dealers At present, in order to exempt the big capitalists and industrialists this sales tax has been levied on poor people. It has been levied on all the commodities such as cloth, iron, cement which are manufactured in the factories. Now these are things which are daily required by labourers, peasants and Harijans. Naturally, the incidence of the tax falls on them. In this way, both the traders and the consumers are put to hardship. It has been said that all sections of people should pay the taxes. If my hon. Friend had cared to

study the principles of taxation, he would have known that the people who got most of lhe facilities paid most of the taxes. The less the facilities provided by the State, the less the taxes. How can the people of the rural areas where 80 per cent of the boys never go to school pay the taxes ? How can the people who cannot get any medical aid in sickness pay this tax ? Then, Madam, I draw your attention to the speech of Sardar Ajit Singh who has now become an expert in making interruptions. At that time, he said :

> **Before I proceed with my speech I regret to say that I could not hear the speeches previously made by the hon. members of this House. Now after having heard my hon. friend Rao Pohop Singh, I have concluded that the Government is under the impression that the zamindars will be greatly helped by this tax and they will not be affected by this measure I am extremely glad that this measure will help the poor peasantry. But as a matter of fact, I do not think that zamindars will stand to gain much by this tax.**

Sir, even those who were in opposition had to admit that the Bill which the Unionists passed was in the interests of peasantry. But to-day the state of affairs is such that the party in power and its leader who used to say that land revenue should be charged on agricultural income are unable to come up to their professions. Today the condition of the poor people in the State of the Punjab is very bad. They are burdened with heavy taxes the like of which exist in no other State of India. The question is whether the tax payer here likes such heavy taxes or not. My hon. Friends who are in the know of such matters must be aware of the fact that one-fourth of the population of our State consists of displaced persons. During the last three years or so, they have had no alternative but to get taccavi and other loans and to pull on with them somehow or other. They have, in fact, been making their both ends meet with difficulty. What is more, our Government goes on increasing the burden of taxation on the already broken backs of such persons. No facilities are provided to them for improving their economic status. No arrangements have been made for their welfare and betterment. Under these circumstances the Government has no right to impose any taxes on them. If the Government of today claims to represent the masses it should pay heed to what the people say and should try to understand the causes of dissatisfaction among the masses. To-day the conditions are such

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that Beopar Mandals everywhere are passing resolutions to the effect that the sales tax should be reduced as it is very excessive. In this connection, I would like to say that the rate at which the sales tax is charged is so high that the consumers are reeling under its weight. The sum of rupees one crore sixty-nine lakhs which the Government is expecting to get from this tax is excessive if we take into consideration the paying capacity of the tax-payer. The land revenue which the people considered heavy was to be charged on the basis of income tax principles if the agitation started before partition had been successful. But what to say of that to-day we find strange things happening in the independent State of Punjab. Here Sales tax has been imposed on hotels and restaurants of the so-called English fashion. If an average hotel where labourers and clerks take their meals on tables and chairs is to be taxed simply because it kept chairs and tables etc, I can only say that this is the last thing that the people are going to tolerate. If even the meals of the poor labourers and clerks etc., are to be taxed what can such poor persons expect from the present Government. Their salaries are already low and they are hardly making their both ends meet. The tax which they are expected to pay is too heavy for them. The rate is Rs. 3/2/- per hundred. A person buying articles worth Rs 20/- has to pay ten annas to the Government. Thus a poor man who on an average buys articles worth Rs 20/- every month pays a sum of Rs 7/8/- annually to the Government. This is a heavy burden on the weak shoulders of the class o persons who are unable to bear it. As a matter of facts the incidence of taxes should ordinarily fall upon those having capacity to pay. Why should it fall upon the poor? Moreover, what is it that the State gives in return to the poor? In fact, the poor stand in no need of police protection upon which the Government is spending so much. No body is going to take away the huts and small belongings of the poor The Government grants practically no educational, medical and other such facilities to the poor. So why should it impose taxes upon them. If we look to the last four years we find that taxes on the poor are increasing every day under the Congress Raj. Those very persons who carried agitation against the imposition of four anna-tax in Lahore are now themselves imposing Rs 3/2/-.

हाथी के दांत खाने के और दिखाने के और

ਹਾਥੀ ਦੇ ਦਾਂਤ ਖਾਣੇ ਦੇ ਔਰ, ਦਿਖਾਣੇ ਦੇ ਔਰ ।

When such people were in opposition, they considered four annas as excessive but now when they are in power they do not look upon even Rs 3/2/- as excessive. If we study the figures for 1948-49 we will find that the income of our Government from this source was only twenty-seven lakhs. But now it is one crore sixty-nine lakhs. Thus it has increased six times. As a matter of fact, this increase is ten times if we take into account the fall in the purchasing power of the people since that year. The present Government which claims to be trustee of the people has in fact no desire to safeguard the interests of the poor. Like its predecessor, this Government is trying to get as much money out of the pockets of the people as it can and in return it gives back practically nothing.

An hon. Member: But where will it send the money?

Sardar Bachan Singh: These days there are certain persons who get three thousand rupees per month as their salary and they spend the amounts in England, Japan, and other foreign countries. They go on pleasure trips. It is regrettable that while such persons are living in India their hearts are in other countries. They sometimes go even to the length of depositing their money outside because they are afraid of the people in this country.

Madam, if you just peruse the structure of taxation as incorporated in the General Sales Tax Act, you will find that it is almost based on traditional lines. It appears as if the Government wants to fill its coffers at the cost of poor people. I would, therefore, suggest that instead of crushing the people under the weight of such a heavy tax, the Government should tap such sources of revenue as may afford relief to the public and make the financial position of the State strong and sound.

Then, in this connection an hon. Member had remarked that the incidence of tax in England was the heaviest. But may I tell him that there taxes like the Death Duties, Income Tax, Super Tax etc., are imposed and the people are not burdened with a direct tax like the one prevalent here in the form of a sales tax. In England, the principle underlying the structure of taxation is that the poor should be taxed to the minimum and benefited to the maximum by the Government. My hon. Friend should also bear this fact in mind that the Government running the administration in England is a govern-

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ment of the labouring classes and it claims to be the champion of the cause of the poor. It levies taxes on the rich who can well afford to pay. But what is the state of affairs here? It is just the contrary to what is prevalent in England. I ask the Government that if it has any courage, let it tax the rich and find out such avenues of income as may result in the reduction of the burden of taxes on the poor? May I ask, where have gone those loud claims of my hon. Friends which they used to make while occupying Opposition Benches regarding reduction in the rate of sales tax from 4 annas to two annas? Did they only shed crocodile tears at that time for the poor? Now when they are in power, we ask them to charge one rupee per cent as sales tax instead of two or four annas, but they are not agreeable and they would not accept less than Rs. 3/2 per cent. I have serious apprehensions that if the increase in the rate of the sales tax continued in this manner, then it might go up to Rs. 6/4 per cent. So what I want to drive at is, that the Government will have to formulate a clear-cut policy in this respect. It will have to decide one way or the other, whether this tax is to be levied on the poor or the rich and that whether the proceeds of this tax will necessarily be spent for the benefit and welfare of the poor. I am of the opinion that the masses cannot be satisfied unless the Government brings about a re-orientation in its policy of taxation, namely, that the burden of this tax is to be borne by those who are able to bear it. I think, so far as sales tax is concerned, it is wide of the mark to raise any question of *bania versus zamindar*. My hon. Friends who have put the case in this colour are entirely mistaken. Sales Tax is a deadly weapon which cuts both ways; it affects both the zamindar and the bania class. I am of the opinion that never in the history of the Punjab was the trader put to such insults and indignities under any othere taxation measure, as he has been put to under the Sales Tax Act. I ask the Government, why does it take begar from the trader in the matter of collection of the sales tax and put him to unnecessary botheration of maintaining accounts in difficult forms? Why does it not utilise the official machinery for collecting it? So, Madam, if one carefully peruses the whole data regarding the incidence of sales tax, he will arrive at the conclusion that this is a heavy tax and it mainly falls on the poor. Consequently, I would request the Government to change its policy in favour of scaling down the present high rate of sales tax to the proposed extent and thus earn the good wishes of lakhs of poor people. The Government should profit from the writing on the wall, otherwise such a situation in the country will arise as a result of its

taxation policy that it will become difficult for it to bring under control. Besides, I would not have objected to the levy of the sales tax had it been imposed on luxury goods and not on the poor people whose purchasing power has gone so low that they cannot make their both ends meet with the present slender means of income. With these words, I would appeal to the House to pass the resolution unanimously and urge upon the Government the desirability of reducing the rate of sales tax from Rs. 3/2 per cent to Re. 1/- per cent.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Madam, when the General Sales Tax Act was passed during the regime of the Unionist Government, it was estimated that at the rate of 4 annas per cent, the income from the imposition of the sales tax would not exceed three to four lakhs of rupees and yet there was a great agitation for the reduction of the rate of sales tax, which was ultimately reduced to annas 2 per cent. At that time we had brought this fact to the notice of the Government that ultimately the sales tax will fall on the zamindars. Besides, the Inspectors appointed under this Act would harass the traders and would themselves grab major portion of the proceeds of the sales tax which the Government wanted to realize through the agency of the traders. We also pointed out that this tax would adversely affect the general consumer particularly the poor people, who would be hit hard by its imposition But the Unionist Government failed to assess the strength of our argument. When this Act was under discussion of this Assembly, we made everything clear to the Government on the subject. But this Government which claims to be the champion of the cause of the poor did not pay any heed to our advice, which we tendered in respect of imposition of this tax We told the Government in the clearest possible terms that it would not be possible for the trader to maintain the accounts and that he would be put to a great trouble. But the pity of it is that the Government turned a deaf ear to all that we said. Then I agree with my hon. Friend that if this tax at such a high rate is to continue, then the method of collection should have been devised in such a manner as would cause least botheration to the trader and yet the return should be greater. It is a fact that if proper arrangements had been made by the Government for the realisation of this tax, then the proceeds would have far exceeded the present amount, which comes to about 175 lakhs of rupees. Now what is the state of affairs here. On the one hand, the traders are unhappy

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because they are harassed by the Inspectors and they cannot maintain the account properly and on the other hand the consumers are groaning under the crushing weight of the heavy incidence of the Sales Tax. Then, the prices have risen to such a high level and the purchasing power of the people has gone so low, that it has become well-nigh impossible for them to make their both ends meet. Under the circumstances, how can they pay the sales tax at such a high rate of Rs. 3/2 per cent

Then, I submit that the sales tax should be imposed at one stage so that its collection may be easy. Besides, imposition of sales tax at one stage will render its evasion by the clever people impossible. Now what happens is that honest consumers have to pay it while clever people, be they traders or others, dodge the authorities and evade payment. In this connection, I may point out that the Inspectors appointed by the Government to check the accounts of the traders are also responsible for the evasion of this tax by the traders. Since they extort lot of money from the traders, the latter resort to the evasion of sales tax and thus make good not only what they pay to the Inspectors, but also make it a source of regular income. We frequently hear that at Ludhiana and in other towns such a thing is being carried on with the connivance of the Inspectors. In this connection, I would like to relate how traders in other countries take great care not to evade the sales tax. A friend of mine went to Japan to make purchases of piece goods. After having purchased the necessary textile goods, he bought a piece of woollen cloth for his own coat. He was surprised to see that the Japanese Merchant fully charged the sales tax from him despite the fact that the former had purchased it for his personal use and he naturally expected this concession from the latter. When my friend complained of this to the Japanese Merchant, the latter told him that he could afford to charge less price, but could not allow the his Government to be deprived of its taxes. If he did so, he would be guilty of stealing the Government money.

I have no intention to dub the Government as thief but I am sorry to say that its actions are nothing short of an attempt to fleece the public. The sub-inspectors of the department indulge in corrupt practices and have not the slightest intention to do good to anybody. They seek to grow rich at the expense of the traders. By taking recourse to malpractices, they do not help the Government in the full realization of the sales tax. They shield the offenders and thus extort money from them which ordinarily has to go to the Government's exchequer. As a result of this, there are feelings of dissatisfaction and hatred in the minds of the public against the Government.

Deputy Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to discuss the esolutation that is before the House and not to say anything against the Government.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : If the Government reduces the rate of tax and insists upon the officers to make collection in a proper way there will be no loss in the revenue Moreover, if the collect on is made properly it will liquidate blackmarketing in the State. Besid s this, if the yield of the tax has been disproportionately larger than the original estimate the Government should not overburden the people. It should take steps to reduce the rate of tax with a view to affording relief to the traders and the consumers. It would have been better if this tax had been charged at one stage. The imposition of this tax has led to quarrels in several villages. If any commodity is sold at Rs. 10/-a maund and the shopkeeper charges extra amount as sales tax there is altercation between the parties. Now the shopkeepers in certain villages have begun to charge sales tax on every commodity even though it is exempted under the schedule. Keeping all these facts into consideration, the Government should make a reduction in the rate of sales tax. It is reasonable if the tax is imposed on big business-men who have their shops on the Mall Road but it does not look well that a pettey shopkeeper in a village should also be required to pay this tax who is not in a position to keep regular accounts with him. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government that it should exempt pettey shopkeepers in villages so that they may feel that the Government is zealous to safeguard the interests of the ruralites.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I have listened to the speeches made by the hon. Members. They have tried to appeal to the sentiments of the Members of this House by pointing out the defects in the Sales Tax Act. It so appears to me that they have misunderstood the Act. They have not actually tried to study carefully the Sections of this Act.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I have been a member of the Select Committee.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Madam, my hon. Friend who has been a member of the Select Committee has himself laid emphasis that this tax adversely affects the interests of the poor. I may draw the attention of the House to Section 6 of the Sales Tax Act which provid s a number of exemptions.

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These exemptions include wheat, atta, rice, vegetables, eggs, fresh fruits, flowers, oil, etc. There is no tax on agricultural implements and hand-spun cloth. It would, therefore, be evident that all the necessities of life have been exempted from the tax. It has never been the intention of the Government to burden the poor. To say that unfairness has been done to them is wrong and opposed to facts. The House is fully aware and my hon. Friend the mover of the resolution himself knows it full well that after the partition of the State our economy has been completely shattered. Our financial position is not so sound as it should be. We have to make necessary arrangements for the defence of the borders. We have, therefore, to tap all sources of income to save our State from becoming bankrupt.

The rate of sales taxes in other States such as West Bengal, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Behar, Orissa, Assam and Pepsu is also Rs. 3-2-0 per cent. In U. P it is Rs. 4-11-0 per cent. In Delhi also the sales tax has now been imposed at the same rate as in the Punjab. In some States such as U. P., Assam and Madhya Pradesh, the rate of sales tax on luxury goods is double the rate on other goods But here we have a uniform rate in respect of all commidities.

Then, Madam, it is no use saying that the rate of this tax in 1941 was reduced from 0-4-0 per cent to 0-2-0 per cent. The conditions to day are entirely different. What is the comparison between the resources of the Joint Punjab and those of this truncated province? And then, Madam, the present is the period of great inflation. The value of money has gone down. The expenses of running the administration have increased manifold. In view of these facts, how is my friend opposite justified in advocating a reduction in the rate of the Sales Tax? There is not a single argument that can be advanced in favour of his resolution

Then, Madam, it is argued that the poor section of the people has to bear the brunt of this taxation, that its incidence falls on persons of low-income group I am afraid my friends are being carried away by sentiments. Let them examine the matter in the cold light of logic and they will be convinced that it involves no very great hardship or injustice either for the persons belonging to the low-income group living in towns or the people living in rural areas. Persons with an income of say Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 p.m. hardly purchase in a month goods worth Rs. 50/- on which they

have to pay sales tax. The amount that they have to pay to the Government in the form of sales tax every month is very insignificant. As regards the ruralities, they hardly make purchases worth Rs. 10/- a month for which they have to pay this tax And if a person purchase goods worth Rs 10 and pays As. 5 as Sales Tax every month, how is it a case of oppression as it is being made out by my friends opposite ? Cant't they afford to pay As. 5 per mensem as Sales tax. I am of the view, Madam, that if the people of a country have to contribute 50 or 60 per cent of their income for the preservation of its independence, they should not grudge it. (*Applause*). It is our duty to defend our motherland with all the resources at our command. No sacrifice in this cause is too great. I would, therefore, request the Government not to criticize the Government for the sake of mere criticism and to oppose its every policy for the sake of opposition Such an attitude of mind will prove detrimental to the interests of the State. I can assure them that this tax is not in fact a very heavy burden on the poor consumers.

My hon. Friends should also not forget the pains that the Government has had to take to stabilize the finances of this almost bankrupt State since the partition. That in three years it has been able to increase the revenues of the State to such an extent as to balance its budget is no mean achievement. It is all the more creditable that our Government has been able to achieve this financial soundness and stability in spite of the fact that it has since its inception been faced with the tremendous problems of rehabilitation of refugees and the policing of the border. At the time of preparing the budget estimates, we had expected a yield of rupees one crore and forty-four lakhs from this tax in the current year but I have to say with regret that the actual yield has been of the order of rupees one crore and 30 lakhs, and it has not so far been possible to realize Rs. 3,12,000 which is still due from the traders.

My Friend Shri Behari Lal Chanana has stated that almost all the dealers come within the purview of this taxation and that it is causing great hardship to the small dealers. Well, Madam, the total number of dealers registered so far is 28,271, out of whom only 19,256 have so far cleared their accounts. I wonder how my friend has made the assertion that all dealers are within the ambit of this

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taxation. Is the total number of dealers in all the districts of this State no more than 28,271 ? This is manifestly a wrong statement and so I need not dilate on it. The number of those who are exempt is definitely greater than those who are liable to it. There are many who come within its purview but who have not yet got themselves registered. There are others who have yet to clear their account Then, all that these traders are doing is to collect the money for the Government. Is it too much to expect this little service from them ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : They are 'begaris'.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : No, it is their duty to be of service to the Government of their State. It is not the intention of the Government to inflict hardship upon any body. If any Sub-Inspector or Inspector harasses a trader, the latter can lodge a complaint against him to the Excise and Taxation Commissioner. If in any case, a trader is not satisfied with the decision of the Excise and Taxation Commissionner, he can file an appeal against it in High Court. So any hardship to the traders is out of question.

So I would request the hon. Members of this House not to be carried away by sentiments or to oppose the levy of the Sales Tax just for the sake of playing to the gallery or posing as the champion of the interests of the poor masses. There is not a single valid and convincing argument againstthe Sales Tax. It is quite in keeping with the economic conditions prevailing to day. With these words, I request the House with all the emphasis that I can command to reject this resolution. There should be no difference of opinion over this matter.

Sardar Sajjan Singh (Patti, Sikh Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I have very carefully listened to the speeches that have been made by the various hon. Members of this House.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : On a point of order, Madam. I think that closure should now be applied as the Government has given its reply and there cannot be any more speeches on this resolution.

Deputy Speaker : I am prepared to apply closure if the hon. Member moves it

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I move :

That the question be put now.

The motion was carried.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore-General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I am really pleased to find that majority of the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion of this resolution have supported it. Still there has been some opposition and my hon. Friend who originally hailed from Lyallpur and now resides at Ambala has mainly contributed to it. Firstly, he was good enough to say that we should pay taxes for maintaining our freedom. I may tell him that we are not mere exploiters (*doodh pite majnun*) and realize our duty towards the hard-earned freedom of our country. But the point is that those in power are in the name of freedom of the country conducting themselves in such a manner that the masses are losing faith in them. These people who occupy the position of vantage are exploiting the people at large.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, Madam. The hon. Member is imputing motives.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Madam. The hon. Sardar Shiv Saran Singh is not justified in raising his point of order as the hon. Mehta Ranbir Singh did not direct his remarks against any particular person.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I wish to tell the House that if we want to maintain the freedom of the country we should convince the masses that they stand to gain by freedom. We should show them that they will not die of starvation in free India If we fail to do that how can we expect to have any support from them ? Here I am reminded of a couple of lines of the late Dr. Iqbal which are as follows :

जिस खेत में दहिकां को मुयसर न हो रोजी

उस खेत के हर खोशाए गंदुम को जला दो

ਜਿਸ ਖੇਤ ਸੇ ਦਹਿਕਾਂ ਕੋ ਮੁਯੱਸਰ ਨ ਹੋ ਰੋਜ਼ੀ

ਉਸ ਖੇਤ ਕੇ ਹਰ ਖ਼ੋਸ਼ਾਏ ਗੰਦਮ ਕੋ ਜਲਾ ਦੋ।

The second point which has been raised is this that land revenue should be fixed on the basis of Income-Tax. I agree with this suggestion. But this argument should not be extended to mean that sales tax should not be reduced. I submit that if a person owning

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

a small area of land is not in a position to pay land revenue how can a person who does not own any land be in a position to pay sales tax at a high rate? My hon. Friends appear to be following a wrong logic. They are perhaps under an impression that this tax is being paid by the traders. It is not so. It is being paid by the consumers.

The third thing is rather amusing. I had asked for state trading in cotton or the establishment of spinneries in the State. But my hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh Kang suggested that it was very profitable to sell our cotton to the mill-owners of Bombay at high rates This was what the Englishman used to say about our raw materials produce during his regime. He always gave out that it was in the interests of India to sell its raw material to the Europeans and get the finished goods from them. Such things may have passed muster in the old days but no Indian should suggest them in the present circumstances if he has even a rudimentary knowledge of principles of Economics. This was what I meant when I used rather an undesirable expression when my hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh Kang was delivering his speech. I never meant any insult to him or to the community of Jats.

Next, I wish to tell the hon. Members that I am not opposed to payment of taxes. What I say is only this that when it is incumbent on us to pay taxes the State or the Government has also a duty towards

us. I am not opposed to all kinds of taxes but I feel that the rate of sales tax is too high and people are not in a position to pay it. The number of such persons is very large. If even a beggar has to purchase soap for washing his clothes or oil for cooking his food, he has to pay sales tax at the rate of Rs. 3-2-0 per per cent. One has to pay this tax even while purchasing articles like gur and shakkar. If only the big businessmen or manufacturers had to pay this tax, I would not have objected to it. My complaint is that it is charged from those who are not in a position to pay it. For instance if the owner of an oil mill purchases mustard seeds or toria, he has to pay no sales tax, but when the poor consumer has to buy oil from him, he has to pay it at a high rate. When an agriculturist sells cotton, no sales tax is charged on it but at the time of buying cotton seeds he has to pay it. Those things which the poor villagers have to buy are subject to sales tax while those which they sell are exempt from

it. Is it not a tax on the poor consumer then? The Parliamentary Secretary said that when the rate of sales tax was four annas per cent, the prices were very low. I have not been able to understand the soundness of this argument. If the prices have increased, the amount of tax which is charged on the price of articles has incrased in the same proportion In that case it is a still greater burden on the consumers. As a matter of fact, the entire economy of the State has been shattered by the imposition of this tax. It is not proper to compare the rate of sales tax in this State with that prevailing in Bombay or Uttar Pradesh. Economically our position is worse than that of those States. On the one hand, our Government says that it wishes to check inflation while on the other hand the amount which the consumer has to pay for purchasing an article has been increased by the imposition of sales tax. For instance, when the price of mustard oil is eighty rupees per maund, the Government cannot claim to be checking inflation by increa ing it by Rs. 2-8-0 per maund for the poor consumer. Under the existing conditions, a large number of persons are compelled to cut short their bare necessities even. In reply to one of my questions, it was stated on behalf of the Government that the sales tax was likely to yield about fifty or sixty lakhs of rupees. I told them that it was ikely to yield well above a crore of rupees. At that time the hon. Chief Minister said that he was not aware if that was the positson, but now we find that at the end of the year sales tax has been shown in the Budget as having yielded about one and a half crore of rupees Our Ministers sometimes say that they are servants of the people. I wish to tell them that self-praise is no recommendation. People will judge them from their actions and not from their words. They are in fact sucking the blood of the masses. We are told that on account of its increasing expenditure, the Government needs revenues. Who asked the Government to increase their expenditure unnecessarily? I shall ask the Government to consult economic experts about the economic condition of the State. They should find out if the masses have the capacity to pay the sales tax. The Government should not act on the policy that it must have its taxes whether the people can pay these or not. This state of affairs cannot go on for ever. How can the masses go on being burdened beyond their capacity? The financial condition of this State is already very bad on account of the refugee problem, unemployment and inefficiency of the Government. Unless the consumers pay these taxes, they are not in a position to

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]
purchase even the bare necessities of life. Our State is making no progress in the industrial field. Instead of imposing such taxes, the Government should formulate constructive schemes. I hope that the Government will not keep only their own needs in view but will show due regard for the wishes of the public who are their real masters. I hope that for the reasons stated by me, this resolution will be passed by the House.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural): My hon. Friend has raised no new point in his speech. He only read a couplet from Iqbal's poetry and said that the Government was exploiting the poor masses.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is the Parliamentary Secretary entitled to speak on this resolution again ?

Deputy Speaker : Yes, he is entitled to speak again. When I called upon him to speak for the second time, I did so because he has a right of reply.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : If a villager owning even two marlas of land has to pay taxes to the Government, it is not fair to say that the sales tax is unjustified. Urban people having income below a certain amount are exempt from the payment of income tax, but a land owner has to pay land revenue, no matter how small his holding is. Sales tax is no doubt a tax on the consumer but its incidence on the poor villagers is not much because they have not the means to purchase many things. Only those who need a large number of things such as costly clothes and toilet goods, have to pay more of it.

Then he has said that there has been no change in the incomes of the people. Is it not a fact that in 1941 a labourer got only 8 annas a day while now he gets Rs 2½ to Rs. 3/- a day ? Similarly, the official who got only Rs 40/- as his monthly salary in 1941 now gets Rs. 100/ to Rs. 150. And then the incidence of this tax does not fall on these people. It affects only those who indulge in luxuries. Under these circumstances, I see no weight in the arguments advanced by the hon. Member sitting opposite. I, therefore, appeal to the House to reject this Resolution

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

> In view of the prevailing high price level and the low purchasing power in the State, this Assembly recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to reduce the sales tax from Rs. 3-2-0 to Re- 1/- per cent. forthwith.

The Assembly Divided : Ayes 3, Noes 33.

AYES

Bachan Singh, Sardar.

Ranbir Singh, Mehta.

Sajjan Singh, Sardar.

NOES

Amar Nath, Vidyalankar, Shri.

Badlu Ram, Chaudhri.

Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri.

Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.

Bikram Chand, Dr.

Buja Ram Bhagat, Shri.

Dalip Singh, Kang, Sardar.

Durga Chand Kaushish, Shri.

Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar.

Gurbanta Singh, Master.

Harbhaj Ram, Chaudhri.

Ishar Singh Mujhail, The Hon. Sardar.

Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar.

Kabul Singh, Sardar.

Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.

Lahri Singh, Chaudhri.

Mohar Singh, Rao.

Narotam Singh, The Hon. Sardar.

Parkash Kaur, Shrimati Dr.

Ranjit Singh, The Hon. Captain.

Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri.

Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.

Samar Singh, Chaudhri.

Sant Ram Seth, Dr.

Sher Singh, Chaudhri.

Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.

Shri Ram Sharma.

Sita Devi, Shrimati.

Sudarshan, Seth.

Sundar Singh, Chaudhri.

Tara Singh, Sardar.

Ujjal Singh, Sardar.

Waryam Singh, Sardar.

INDUSTRIAL LABOUR.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar (Non-Union Labour) : I beg to move :

> This Assembly is of the opinion that in order to safeguard the legitimate interests of industrial labour, and to effectively check the growing

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar]

unrest in their ranks, it is absolutely necessary that their genuine grievances in respect of their primary conditions of work should be immediately removed. With this object in view, this Assembly recommends to the Government to take early steps to provide for the following, either by an executive order, where it should be possible under the existing law or with the help of fresh legislation where this becomes necessary:—

(i) compulsory recognition of the Workers Trade Unions by the employers, after their regular registration under the Indian Trade Unions Act;

(ii) Prohibition of all sudden and arbitrary retrenchments of workers in the industrial establishments, making it obligatory for the employers to obtain prior sanction from the Labour and Industrial departments of the Government before any large-scale retrenchment is undertaken;

(iii) prevention of arbitrary and unilateral reduction in the wage-scales and rates of the workers;

(iv) standardisation of wage-rates, ensuring uniformity of scales and equal pay for equal work;

(v) securing a minimum living wage for all categories of workers.

Madam, I had prepared a very fine speech in support of my resolution. However, my object is to get this resolution passed and not to make a long speech only. It is generally said of us that we are a nation of talkative persons. We talk more and do little. Action is extermely more important than speech. So I want action and not speech. The time at our disposal is very short—it is hardly 12 minutes to 6-30, and if we fail to pass this resolution to-day, its turn might never come again. On the other hand, almost all the hon. Members appear to be in favour of this resolution. I, therefore, need not attempt to convince those who are already convinced. That would amount to wasting the precious time of the House. Without any prolonged discussion on this resolution, I would request the hon. Members to pass it. It is really in the inetrests of the poor labourers to do so. In fact, the poor workers in the factories outside the House are waiting since long and expect this House to pass this resolution. They are not longing to hear our fine oratory but they are anxious to get the substance without our words. If the hon. Members of this House are really anxious to serve the cause of those poor workers, they ought to save every minute. If, on the other hand, some hon. Members try to prolong the discussion on this motion and not suppress

their temptation to speak, the clock will strike half past six and the Assembly will adjourn without the resolution being passed So I appeal through you, Madam, to the hon. Members to give their support to this resolution without any discussion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: On a point of order, Can any hon. Member in an indirect way impute motives that some of the hon. Members do not wish to pass this resolution ?

Deputy Speaker: He has only made an appeal that the hon. Members should not waste any time on the discussion of such an uncontroversial resolution.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: We do not oppose this resolution. It should be passed.

Sardar Bachan Singh: On a point of order. Can an hon. Member speak before the motion itself is put to the House.

Deputy Speaker: There are some hon. Members who are in the habit of speaking too much. When one rises up some others also do the same.

Motion moved—

That this Assembly is of the opinion that in order to safeguard the legitimate interests of the industrial labour, and to effectively check growing unrest in their ranks, it is absolutely necessary that their genuine grievances in respect of their primary conditions of work should be immediately removed. With this object in view this Assembly recommends to the Government to take early steps to provide for the following either by executive order where it should be possible under the existing law or with the help of fresh legislation where this becomes necessary:—

(i) compulsory recognition of Workers Trade Unions by the employers, after their regular registration under the Indian Trade Union Act:

(ii) prohibition of all sudden and arbitrary retrenchments of workers in industrial establishments, making it obligatory for the employers to obtain prior sanction from Labour and Industrial departments of the Government before any large scale retrenchment is undertaken:

(iii) prevention of arbitrary and unilateral reduction in the wage scale and rates of the workers,

(iv) standardisation of wage rates ensuring uniformity of scales and equal pay for equal work,

(v) securing a minimum living wage for all categories of workers.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural (*Punjabi*) Sir, I support the resolution moved by my hon. Friend Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar, I am surprised to hear Sardar Shiv Saran Singh saying that he does not oppose this resolution. May I know from him as to who is responsible for the growing unrest in the ranks of the labourers ? Is it not a fact that the Government has been sleeping for the last three years or so, so far as labour is concerned ?

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh: The Government is not sleeping. It is going to introduce legislation on this matter very shortly.

Sardar Bachan Singh : So far as legislation of this Government is concerned the less said the better. No less than fifty Bills are pending, yet no legislative business has been transacted up to this time during this session After the passing of the Budget, the Government proposes to devote only two days for legislative business which includes the important Gaon Panchayat Bill comprising about 150 clauses. I am surprised that such an important Bill which was submitted to the Select Committee during the Budget Session of 1950 and upon which the Select Committee submitted its report in September 1950 has not been brought on the agenda upto this time.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : The hon. Member is irrelevant.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, my submission is that the Government is not paying full attention towards legislation especially in connection with the factory labourers. As a matter of fact, during the last three years or so it has been following a policy of favouring the capitalists at the expense of the labourers. It has been heaping injustices upon the poor workers. Although in Punjab we have very few big industrial concerns employing more than one thousand labourers, still the Government has not been able to tackle their problem successfully. I have been to the Central Workshop at Amritsar and Chaudhri Lahri Singh who was then Minister-in-charge can bear me out that the conditions prevailing there are far from satisfactory. There is discontent among the workers The real fact is that the labour in Punjab is neglected and the Government's attitude in this matter is unsympathetic.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Friday, 30th March, 1951.

Punjab Legislative Assembly Debates

30TH MARCH 1951

Vol. III—No. 19

OFFICIAL REPORT

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Friday, 30th March, 1951.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 30th March 1951

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla, at 10 a.m. of the clock.

ABSENCE OF THE HON. SPEAKER AND HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER

Secretary : I have to inform the House that the hon. Speaker is unavoidably absent. The Deputy Speaker has not yet arrived and as none of the members of the panel of chairmen is present, under the Constitution it rests with this House to elect any other hon. Member to take the Chair.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I propose that Chaudhri Suraj Mal do take the Chair.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : I second the proposal.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal occupied the chair amidst cheers.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HARIJANS IN GURGAON DISTRICT.

*2775. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(*a*) Whether 15% posts reserved for Harijans in the State are occupied by Harijans in the Gurgaon District ; if so, the names of such officials including Patwaris, Kanungos and clerks separately.

(*b*) the number of Harijan Naib Tehsildars in Ambala Division ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram).

(*a*) and (*b*) As the question smacks of communalism, it is not in public interest to give a reply on the floor of the House.

PARLIAMENTARY AND PRIVATE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.

***2783. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the salary given to each one of the Parliamentary and Private Parliamentary Secretaries.

(*b*) the travelling allowance, if any, so far charged by each one of them.

(*c*) whether it is a fact that they are seldom or never allowed to deal with official files and are not consulted in the administrative and policy matters ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) The salary of each Parliamentary Secretary was Rs. 360 P.M. and that of the Private Parliamentary Secretary was Rs. 255 P.M.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*c*) They are entrusted with both official and parliamentary work.

Statement showing the total amount of T. A. drawn by each of the Parliamentary and Private Parliamentary Secretaries since their appointment.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

		Rs. a. p.
1.	S. Shiv Saran Singh	180-12-0
2.	S. Ajit Singh	Nil
3.	Thakur Beli Ram	Nil
4.	Ch. Jagdish Chander	Nil
5.	Prof. Sher Singh	Nil
6.	Pt. Bhagat Ram	Nil
7.	Shri Dev Raj Sethi	200-4-0
8.	S. Waryam Singh	Nil
9.	Late S. Gurbachan Singh	488-0-0
10.	Ch. Samar Singh	Nil

PRIVATE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

1.	Ch. Harbhaj Ram	Nil
2.	Ch. Matu Ram	Nil
3.	S. Shiv Singh	Nil

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : I wish to invite the attention of the hon. Chief Minister to part (c) of my question which is as follows :

Whether it is a fact that they are seldom or never allowed to deal with the official files and are not consulted in the administrative and policy matters ?

I want a definite answer whether they are consulted in administrative matters ?

Chief Minister : I have said that they are entrusted both with official and parliamentary work.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Should I take it that the official and parliamentary work includes administrative work ?

Chief Minister : If there is some such thing in which they should be consulted they are consulted. But sometimes there may be matters in which only the Ministers are to be consulted and their services cannot be utilized.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Have the Parliamentary Secretaries to put in some definite hours of work like the hon. Ministers and other officers of Government ?

Chief Minister : The hon. Member knows everything. Things are proceeding in the same way as they used to in his time.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Why have their salaries been reduced during these days of dearth and scarcity ?

Chief Minister : Their salaries were reduced in accordance with the policy of compulsory cuts.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : In answer to a supplementary by Sardar Bachan Singh the hon. Chief Minister has said that things were proceeding in the same way as they did in his time. May I know why he has not thought it fit to enlighten the other hon. Members of this House in this connection as answers to questions are given for the benefit of the whole House and not for the benefit of one particular hon. Member ?

Chief Minister : There was no necessity for the supplementary asked by my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh as he was in possession of the necessary information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It has been said that the poor Parliamentary Secretaries have been made a victim of the compulsory cut particularly when they form the main prop of the Government. May

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

I know whether the salaries of the hon. Ministers and other officers have also been subjected to this compulsory cut like those of the Parliamentary Secretaries ?

Chief Minister : I thank the hon. Member for the sympathy he has for the Parliamentary Secretaries. My hon. Friend should know that compulsory cut has been applied to all salaries except those of the hon. Members of the Assembly.

FORMATION OF DISTRICT DEHAT SUDHAR COMMITTEES IN THE STATE

***2830. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(*a*) Whether any District Dehat Sudhar Committees have been formed in the various districts of the State during the period 15th August 1947 to 1st February 1951 ; if so, their list together with the date when each one of them came into existence ;

(*b*) the names of the office-bearers of each committee for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd years respectively together with their official designation in Government service ;

(*c*) (*i*) the income from and expenditure on each committee till 1st February 1951 ;

(*ii*) the nature of the sources of income of these committees ;

(*d*) (*i*) whether it is a fact that the Government officers and their subordinates collect the funds for these committees from the public ; if so, under what provision of law this is being done ;

(*ii*) the total amount collected for the Dehat Sudhar funds in each district during 1950 by each gazetted officer ;

(*e*) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Government employees collected funds for Red Cross Society and *fauji melas* during 1950 and Janury 1951 ; if so, the amount so collected for this purpose in each of the districts during the aforesaid period ;

(*f*) whether the accounts of Dehat Sudhar Committees and those

of the *fauji melas* are audited by the Government auditors or some other authorised auditors ; if not, the reasons thereof ;

(*g*) whether any rules have been framed by the Government for the disposal of the funds referred to in parts (*d*) and (*e*) above ; whether copies of the same will be laid on the Table ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

DISMISSAL ETC. OF POLICE OFFICERS IN THE STATE

***2891. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the names of Police officers with their places of posting and home addresses, who were dismissed, reverted, censured or given any other kind of punishment including punishment by the Law Courts in the State for corruption or any other offence from 1st January, 1950 to date ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

Five statements containing the information are laid on the Table.*

CONSTRUCTION OF BHAKRA AND NANGAL PROJECTS

***2893. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the progress so far made in the construction of Bhakra and Nangal Projects and the amounts so far spent by the State and the Union Governments respectively ;

(*b*) the approximate time by which both these projects will be completed ;

(*c*) the amounts spent by the Government on the construction of the colonies at the sites of these project ;

(*d*) the amounts spent daily on the staff and the labour engaged at the projects along with a list of officers and the lower staff and the salaries they draw ;

(*e*) whether the labour employed is on the basis of monthly or daily wages together with their rates ?

*Kept in the Library.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) The progress so far made in connection with Bhakra Nangal Projects is as under :

(*i*) **Bhakra Dam.**

The work on the Diversion Tunnels of the Bhakra Dam is in progress. Approximately 40% of the entire enlargement on the Diversion Tunnels has been completed to-date.

The Township for housing the construction personnel at Nangal has been completed. Road and Rail communications from Rail-head at Rupar to the Dam site have been established.

(*ii*) **Nangal Dam.**

70% of the work on the Nangal Dam has been completed. The Nangal Hydel Channel Head Regulator has been completed in all respects except for the erection of gates and gearing, which is in hand. The work on the Nangal Hydel Channel is in full swing. 33·0 crores c.ft. of earthwork have been completed out of a total estimated quantity of 70·0 crores c.ft.

The excavation work on the Power House No. I is in hand. Excavation up to R. L. 999 has been completed. The ultimate foundation level is 960′, which is 65′ below the sub-soil water level.

The work on the exploration of Power House No. II has been completed, and its design will now be taken up.

(*iii*) **Bhakra Canals and Branches.**

About 50% of earthwork has been done on Bhakra Canals and its Branches. Masonry work has also been taken in hand.

Rs. 13·25 crores has been spent and all this sum has been loaned by the Union Government.

(*b*) The Bhakra Dam is expected to be completed by 1957-58 and the Nangal Dam in the year 1952-53 provided funds are available to the extent required for each year during the course of their construction.

(c) Rs. 1,41,00,000.

(d) It is difficult to collect and check the information asked for. Government regrets that it does not consider the labour involved is commensurate with the result to be achieved.

(e) The labour is employed either on monthly basis or through contractors. The rates of pay of skilled and semi-skilled labourers vary from Rs. 55 P. M. to Rs. 200 P. M. according to the nature of work.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that some labourers are paid on monthly basis while others are paid on daily basis. May I know if the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act and other such regulations are applicable to all the labourers ?

Chief Minister : It will be applied to those in whose case the Government has fixed the minimum wages.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : In reply to part (c) of the question, the hon. Chief Minister has stated that a sum of Rs. 1,40,00,000 has been spent on the construction of quarters. While small gardens have been provided and several other facilities have been supplied in the quarters built for officers, is it not a fact that only one room quarters with roofs of corrugated sheets have been built for the labourers ? How will they be able to protect themselves from the rain and heat and are they not entitled to some minimum of facilities ?

Chief Minister : Design of each house was prepared according to the status of the person for whom it was intended. An S. D. O. is given lesser accommodation than the Assistant Engineer and the latter gets smaller accommodation than the Executive Engineer. Similarly, an Executive Engineer is given lesser accommodation than the Superintending Engineer.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Was it not necessary to provide some minimum accommodation in the designs prepared by the Government for constructing houses for the labourers ? Are they not entitled to protection from the sun and the rain ?

Chief Minister : Some houses were constructed first and others were constructed later on. If bigger houses were constructed for the labourers, these would carry more rent as compared with the pay of their occupants. Who will pay that high rent ?

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it not a fact that while the officers have been given rent free quarters, the poor labourers have to pay rent for the small quarters given to them ?

Chief Minister : At first rent was charged for all the quarters. Later on representations were received from the officers that no rent should be charged from them and the Government has agreed to that request.

FACTORY WELFARE OFFICER'S RULES.

*2777 **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar** : Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Government has framed and enforced the Factory Welfare Officer's Rules under the Factories Act 1948, if so, the date on which such rules were enforced ; if not, why not ;

(*b*) the circumstances under which applications for the appointment of a Welfare Officer in the Government Central Workshops, Amritsar have been invited ?

The hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(*a*) The Factories Welfare Officer's Rules under the Factories Act, 1948, have not yet been framed and enforced in the Punjab, as the draft model rules are awaited from the Chief Advisor of Factories, Government of India.

(*b*) Heretofore, alternative arrangements for the Welfare of workers at the Government Central Workshops, Amritsar, have been carried out through other factory officers as permissible under Section 50 (A) of the Factories Act, 1948. As an improvement on the existing arrangements, it was considered desirable to relieve the factory officers of these additional duties and to appoint a Welfare Officer in the Government Central Workshops, Amritsar. Applications for the post of a Welfare Officer for the Government Central Workshops, Amritsar, have therefore been invited.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : In the reply it has been stated that the Government has not been able to frame any rules for the Welfare Officers, because they could not get model rules from the Central Government. If other Governments like those of Madras,

Uttar Pradesh and Bihar could make such rules without waiting for model rules from the Central Government, why could our Government not frame these before advertising for the posts of Welfare Officers ?

Chief Minister : These rules are under consideration and will be framed before long. In order that the Welfare Officers might be recruited by the time these rules are framed, the Government decided to advertise these posts.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it not essential that at the time of submitting applications for selection by the Public Service Commission, the candidates should be aware of these rules ?

Chief Minister : These rules will be ready by the time the Welfare Officers have to start their work. If some one of them does not find it possible to work under those rules, he will be able to say so before taking up his job.

CONSTRUCTION OF CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH

***2664 Dr. Sant Ram Seth :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the State Government has finally decided to build its Capital at Chandigarh ; if so, whether its construction has started ;

(*b*) the total area of land acquired for this purpose ;

(*c*) the number of villages so affected by this acquisition.

(*d*) the number of families so affected and whether they will get land for land or compensation in any other form ;

(*e*) the places where land is proposed to be allotted to persons displaced from the site of the New Capital and the considerations on which land will be allotted to such persons ;

(*f*) the number of plots at the proposed Capital site which will be available for sale to the public ; together with the maximum area of each such plot ;

(*g*) the maximum and minimum price of each plot;

(*h*) whether the refugees will be given any preference in purchasing the plots ;

(*i*) the total number of applications received so far for the purchase of these plots ;

[Dr. Sant Ram Seth]

(*j*) the procedure adopted by the Government to sell these plots to the public :

(*k*) the steps so far taken by the Government for the building of the Capital ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) So far 2467·27 acres.

(*c*) Ten.

(*d*) 871 families. 760 families have applied for land and they will get cultivable land in compensation for cultivable land and cash compensation for houses, wells, trees, other structures and uncultivable land. The remaining 111 families who have not applied for compensation in the form of land will get cash compensation.

(*e*) Allotment will be made mostly in Kharar Tehsil and on the same considerations on which allotment was made by the Rehabilitation Department.

(f)
(g) } The matter is under the consideration of Government.
(*h*)

(*i*) 33,611 applications were received for 543,750 plots of land up to the end of January, 1951.

(*j*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(*k*) The preliminary work in respect of surveys and preparation of Master Plan has almost been completed. Preparation of detailed plans, estimates and design of important puplic buildings is in hand. Building materials are being collected. Temporary accommodation for residential purposes and offices for the 'construction staff' has almost been erected. The construction of various development works and important buildings will be undertaken as soon as design work and detailed drawings are completed by the Engineers and Architects who are busy with this work.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Chief Minister has stated that compensation would be paid to those whose lands or buildings have been acquired by the Government, May I know if some representative of these persons, whose lands have been acquired, will be on that Committee which will determine the amount of compensation ?

Chief Minister : The lands have been acquired according to the rules and the Committee will determine compensation which should be paid to these persons.

Shri Prabodh Chandra ; I wish to know if some representative of the persons affected by acquisition has been taken on the Board which has to determine the compensation.

Chief Minister : The Advisory Board consists of those persons whose lands have been acquired by the Government.

———

SUPPLY OF RENT FREE QUARTERS AT BHAKRA AND NANGAL PROJECTS.

*2671. **Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether it is a fact that repeated representations were received by the Government regarding the supply of rent free quarters to its work-charged establishment at Bhakra and Nangal Projects ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the Government informed the Bhakra Nangal Mazdur Sang, that it had agreed to this demand ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the rent is still being charged in spite of several representations made to the Government pointing out the severe hardship caused by the way the rent for the past months was being realised ;

(*d*) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take in in the matter ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The information is being collected, and will be supplied to the hon. Member in due course.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : This question was postponed previously also and now the Government says that it has not been able

[Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar]

to collect the necessary information so far. Is the Government not in a position to say any thing in reply to my question ?

Chief Minister : I have nothing more to add to what I have already stated.

SETTLEMENT WITH THE LANDLORDS AND TENANTS OF CHANDIGARH.

***2696 Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has arrived at any settlement with the Landlords and tenants of Chandigarh regarding requisition of their lands for New Capital ; if so, the terms and how far they have been implemented ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) Yes. A settlement with the landlords and tenants of the land in the capital area has been made.

(*b*) A copy of the terms of settlement was laid on the Table of the House in reply to starred Assembly Question No. 2529 asked by Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar in the October Session of the Assembly.

(*c*) Action is being taken to implement these terms in the re-settlement of oustees.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. The hon. Chief Minister has stated that a copy of the reply to this question was laid on the Table of the House during the last October Session. That must have been supplied to some other hon. Member, who put the question at that time. Am I not entitled to a copy of the same now when I have put this question to the Government ?

Chief Minister : All the hon. Members are expected to be in possession of the information which has been published.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : That reply has not been published yet. I want a ruling from the Chair whether I am entitled to a copy of the reply which the hon. Chief Minister laid on the Table about six months back.

Chief Minister : The hon. Member asked a question and I have given its reply. If some information is available in the office which can

be inspected by the hon. Members, I considered it sufficient to refer to that.

BORING OF TUBE-WELLS AT THE CAPITAL SITE.

***2698 Shri Prabodh Chandra :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of tube-wells so far bored at the New Capital site together with the total expenditure incurred thereon.

(*b*) whether the water output is the same as expected ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(*a*) 4. One of them was given up during construction and on one pumping machinery has been fitted up and is giving a discharge of twenty one thousand gallons per hour. In the other two pipes have been lowered but the pumping machinery is yet to be installed. The total expenditure incurred on all the four tubewells is Rs. 62,544.

(*b*) Yes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if the flow of the water of the tube-wells is according to expectations ?

Chief Minister : I have already replied that the flow is according to expectations.

ELECTIONS TO MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES IN THE STATE.

***2738 Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :

(*a*) (*i*) the date on which the last election to each of the Ist Class Municipal Committees in the State was held ;

(*ii*) the total number of the elected and nominated members separately of each of these Municipal Committees on 1st February 1951 ;

(*b*) (*i*) the date when the last election to each of the 2nd Class Municipal Committees in the State was held ;

(*ii*) the total number of the elected and nominated members separately of each of these Municipal Committees on 1st February, 1951 ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(*c*) when does the Government intend to hold the next elections to these Committees ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid down on the table.*

(*c*) Please refer to answer given to question No. 2630* part (*b*)†

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The statement laid on the Table shows that at some places elections were held as far back as 1936 and 1937 and at others the elections were held even before that. May I know if the Government ever considered that new elections to the Municipal Committees, to which the elections were held in 1933 and 1934, should be held ?

Minister : It was due to this consideration that the Government decided to hold elections to these local bodies. But the difficulty is that the elections will be held on the adult franchise basis and for this purpose we would require fresh electoral rolls. The publication of these rolls involves huge expenditure which would be superfluous in view of the electoral rolls which are being prepared for the elections to the State Assembly. The same electoral rolls can be utilised for the elections to the local bodies. It was with this purpose in view that elections to the Municipal Committees have not so far been held.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If the elections could be held on the basis of old electoral rolls in Una and Zira constituencies, why was it not possible to hold the elections to the other Municipal Committees on the same basis ?

Minister : The elections at those places were limited to single constituencies while elections to the Municipal Committees will have to be held throughout the Punjab. If we had held the elections on the basis of the old electoral rolls, it would have been said that the same persons had been re-elected to the Municipal Committees.

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* Kept in the Library

† Vide page (5)8 supra.

ELECTIONS TO DISTRICT BOARDS IN THE STATE

***2739 Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the date on which the last elections to each of the District Boards in the State were held ;

(*b*) the number of elected and nominated members separately of each Discrict Board in the State on 1st January, 1951.

(*c*) when does the Government intend to hold next elections to the District Boards in the State ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.†

(c) Please refer to the answer given to question No. 2630 part (b).‡

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that the Government removed from membership some of the elected members quite unreasonably and thus deprived them of their right ?

Minister : Nobody has been unreasonably deprived of his right.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that in the issue of the Government Gazette of 16th March 1951, it was published that Mian Narindar Singh had been removed from the Vice-Presidentship of the Hoshiarpur District Board ?

Minister : Madam, it does not arise out of this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. The hon. Minister, while replying to my supplementary just now, said that nobody had been disqualified. Now when I have pointed out a specific case, he refuses to reply.

Deputy Speaker : This is an argument and not a point of order.

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† Kept in the Library.

‡ Vide Page (5)8 supra.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH

* 2757. **Shri Prabodh Chandra** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state the expenses the Government has so far incurred in connection with the preliminary survey, plans and other miscellaneous works in connection with the construction of the New Capital at Chandigarh ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

The expenditure so far incurred in connection with the preliminary survey, plans and other miscellaneous works (excluding the cost of land) in connection with the construction of the New Capital of the Punjab State is as follows :—

Preliminary survey	Rs. 1,61,897
Plans	Rs. 1,24,990
Other Miscellaneous works ...	Rs. 26,50,256

Shri Prabodh Chandra : While replying to the question, the hon. Chief Minister has stated that Rs. 1 lakh has been spent on surveying of the site, Rs. 1 lakh on planning and Rs. 26 lakh on miscellaneous works. May I know as to what are the items which have been included in miscellaneous works ?

Chief Minister : If the hon. Member wants details, he should give notice of a separate question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know if the expenditure on police which arrested and lathi-charged persons on the site of the capital has also been included in the expenditure on preliminary survey ?

Chief Minister : The expenditure on survey was incurred on survey and not on police.

CONSTRUCTION OF CAPITAL AT CHANDIGARH

*2894. **Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the amounts so far spent under the different heads in connection with the construction of the Capital at Chandigarh and the progress made till now;

(b) the target date by which the Capital is expected to be completed according to the scheme;

(c) the time by which the Government will be able to move its Secretariat from Simla to the New Capital and hold the session of the State Legislature there ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.

(a) The amounts of actual expenditure so far incurred under different heads in connection with the construction of the New Capital at Chandigarh are being compiled and are not available.

The information regarding the progress made in the construction of the New Capital was given in reply to Starred Assembly QuestionNo. 2639.†

(b) The Project Estimate for the construction of the New Capital is under preparation and no target date by which the Capital is expected to be completed can be stated at present.

(c) As already stated in reply to Starred Assembly Question No. 3121‡ the time by which the officers will be shifted to the New Capital cannot be stated at present.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it in the knowledge of the hon. Chief Minister that he or some other hon. Minister issued a statement sometime back that the next Session of the Assembly would be held at Chandigarh ? May I know whether that statement or the one given by the hon. Chief Minister now is correct ?

Chief Minister : I have not given any statement in this connection.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know if it was brought to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister by the Department of Public Information that a responsible Minister had made the statement that the next Session of the Assembly would be held at Chandigarh ?

Minister for Public Works : Yes, such a statement was made.

Deputy Speaker : Before I call upon Shri Prabodh Chandra to put his supplementary, I want to make a few general remarks. I think it would be better if Members other than the hon. Member in whose name the main question stands, are given the opportunity to have any information through supplementaries.

† Vide page (5) 36 supra.

‡ Vide page (17) 32 supra.

Shri Parbodh Chandra : May I ask the hon. Minister for Public Works whether it is a fact that sometime back he issued a statement to the Press that the next Session of the Assembly would be held at Chandigarh ?

Minister : Yes, I did.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Was that statement correct or the statement now made by the hon. Chief Minister ?

Minister : At that time my statement was correct. But now this statement is correct (*laughter*).

APPOINTMENT OF ZAILDARS IN THE STATE

***2635. Shri Virendra :** Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) Whether the Government have decided to re-appoint Zaildars in the state ; if so, when are the appointments likely to be made ;

(*b*) the qualifications of a person for appointment as a Zaildar ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Shiv Saran Singh) :

(*a*) First Part.—Yes.

Second Part.—When the rules regarding their appointments have been finalized ;

(*b*) the qualifications for appointment to the posts are under consideration.

Shri Virendra : May I know the time by which a final decision will be taken in this matter ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Very soon.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know whether they will be known as Zaildars or as Ilaqadars ?

Parliamentary Secretary : The reply has already been given.

GRANT OF EXTRA ALLOWANCE TO REVENUE OFFICERS FOR REGISTRATION PURPOSES IN THE STATE.

*2833. **Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) (*i*) Whether any extra allowance is paid to the Revenue Officers who attest the documents presented at the Tehsil Headquarters in the State for registration purposes ; if so, the rate of this allowance per mensem ;

(*ii*) the procedure for the distribution of this allowance amongst them ;

(*b*) (*i*) whether any instructions have been issued by the Government to the Revenue Officers to fix a specific time for the registration of documents;

(*ii*) the maximum period fixed for the copying of the documents of different categories in the registration office ;

(*c*) (*i*) the number of the documents of different categories presented at each of the Tehsil headquarters in the Amritsar and Ludhiana Districts during the period 1st April, 1950 to 31st January, 1951 respectively ;

(*ii*) whether all the documents presented for registration at the Tehsil headquarters referred to in part (*c*) (*i*) above were copied within the specified time ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(*iii*) the number of documents of each category referred to in part (*c*) (*i*) above which could not be copied within the specified time ;

(*d*) whether the documents referred to in part (c) (*i*) above were returned very late to the vendees ; if so, the steps Government proposes to take to do away with the recurrence of this type of delay ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(*a*) (*i*) An extra allowance of Rs. 15 p. m. is paid to Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars for doing registration work in addition to their own duties.

(*ii*) The allowance is distributed proportionately between the Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars with reference to

[Minister for Public Works]

the number of days spent on registration work during a month.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No maximum period had been fixed for the copying of the documents of different categories in the Registration offices.

(*c*) (*i*)

Name of ehsil.			Documents presented from 1st April 1950 to 31st January 1951.
Amritsar.	...	...	2730.
Ajnala.	...	..	907.
Patti.	...	...	1691.
Tarn Taran.	...	...	2916.
Ludhiana.	...	..	2825.
Jagraon.	..	...	1572.
Samrala.	..	...	2176.

(*ii*) No time is specified for copying the documents. However, there was unusual delay in copying the documents in Ludhiana District due to sickness of copying clerk who ultimately died. The copying of documents in Amritsar District was also delayed due to very heavy registration work.

(*iii*) Does not arise as no time is specified for copying the documents.

(*d*) As large number of documents were presented the time and labour involved in collecting information as to whether the documents were returned very late to the vendees will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained. Anyhow adequate steps are being taken to avoid unnecessary delay, if any.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the clerk concerned got sick and consequently died. Does it mean that the work of a Government office stops when an individual is unable to attend to it ; if so, does the Government not realise the hardship which the public has to face as a consequence of this ?

Minister : We do realise it. But we have also our own difficulties. When a person falls sick we cannot appoint another man from outside for a period of one or two days. But, in fact, what we do is that the work of his seat is given to some other clerk of the office who has to do it in addition to his own work. As a result of this, naturally sometimes delay does occur.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know for how many days this clerk remained on sick leave and after how many days he died ?

Minister : This information can he supplied if due notice is given for it by the hon. Member.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that in Amritsar the delay was occasioned by the rush of work. May I know why the establishment was not increased when there was rush of work ?

Minister : I wish to inform the hon. Member that the rush of work was a temporary feature. Establishment can only be increased if there is a regular increase in work, otherwise the Government will have to discharge the new recruit after some days and there might be Assembly questions on that.

RECOVERY OF DUES OF EVACUEE LANDS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

***2839. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(*a*) With reference to answer to Unstarred Question No. 626 put on 13h October 1950 by S. Sajjan Singh, M. L. A., whether the enquiry which was being conducted by the Revenue Assistant, Amritsar, has been completed ;

(*b*) (*i*) if the answer to part (*a*) above be in the affirmative the action taken by the Government against the person concerned ;

(*ii*) whether any case has been registered against them at the Police Station ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(*c*) (*i*) the dates when the warrants of arrest and attachment

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

against the defaulters were issued till 31st January 1951 ;

(*ii*) whether any of the defaulters was arrested ; if not, the reasons therefor in each case ;

(*iii*) whether any amount due has been realised till now ; if so, the amount thereof ; if not, the reasons therefor;

(*d*) the amount still due from each defaulter ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(*a*) Not yet.

(*b*) (*i*) Does not arise.

(*ii*) No case has so far been registered at the Police Station against the defaulters, as enquiries against them are still incomplete.

(*c*) Warrant of arrest against Darbara Singh was issued on 8th March 1950.

(*i*) Warrant of arrest against Chanan Singh was issued on 13th March 1950.

Warrant of attachment against Chanan Singh was issued on 1st April 1950.

Warrant of attachment against Sardul Singh was issued on 6th April 1950.

(*ii*) No. The enquiries are still pending against each of them.

(*iii*) Yes. The information in regard to the recoveries so far made is laid on the Table.

S. No.	Name of Village	Name of the defaulter	Amounts recovered				Total	Remarks
			Abiana	Tawan	Canal Water	Rent		
				Rs. a. p.		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1	Daudpura.	1. Chanan Singh.	...	6 7 0	..	..	6 7 0	
		2. Darbara Singh.	..	..	..	345 5 9	345 5 9	
2	Mianwala.	Chanan Singh.	..	..	..	..	..	
3	Valtoha.	Sardul Singh.	...	..	..	..	..	
	Total			6 7 0	...	345 5 9	351 12 9	

(*d*) The amount still due from each defaulter is detailed below :—

S. No.	Name of Village.	Name of defaulter	Amounts due to be recovered				Total	Remarks
			Abiana	Tawan	Land Revenue	Rent		
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
1	Daudpura.	1. S. Chanan Singh.	...	2,215 5 0	..	..	2,215 5 0	
		2. S. Darbara Singh.	..	..	..	..	..	
		3. S. Sadha Singh.	..	..	...	110 0 0	110 0 0	
			(Subsequently found to be due from one Sadha Singh and not from Darbara Singh).					
2	Mianwala.	1. S. Chanan Singh.	550 14 0	..	..	..	550 14 0	
		2. Others.	70 15 0	..	..	..	70 15 0	
			(Subsequently found to be due from persons other than Chanan Singh).					
3	Valtoha.	1. S. Sardul Singh.	...	..	..	277 5 0	277 5 0	
		Total	621 13 0	2,215 5 0	..	387 5 0	3,224 7 0	

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

After the receipt of the reply to this question information has been received that Sardar Chanan Singh was arrested and dues were realised from him. But the amount of the dues is not known.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In view of the Government's reply to my unstarred question No. 626, may I know the nature of the enquiry which could not be completed in such a long period as six months ?

Minister : I do not wish to add anything to what I have already stated.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know what action the Government took in the matter ?

Minister : Reply has already been given.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the date when this default occurred ?

Minister : A fresh notice is required for that.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is the hon. Minister aware that this matter has been under investigation since April last and it is for about a year that no definite decision has been arrived at by the Government ? If so, may I know how long will the Government take to complete the enquiry ?

Minister : I have already stated that Chanan Singh was arrested and after that he paid a part of the dues also. Other datails are not known to me.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS IN THE STATE.

***2888. Shri Rattan Singh Tabib** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of disputes regarding the consolidation of holdings when this work was done by the Co-operative Department and the number of disputes when the work is being done by the present Consolidation Department ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

The required information in respect of the period from 1st March, 1950 (when the Consolidation Department

started functioning) to 20th February, 1951 is as under :—

	Total No. of disputes.	No. of disputes decided.	Pending
Co-operative Act.	118	113	5
New Consolidation of Holdings Act.	4	4	...

The time and labour involved in collecting the information pertaining to the period extending over a quarter of a century when the work of Consolidation was done by the Co-operative Department, will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

DECLARATION OF CERTAIN CASTES AS AGRICULTURISTS.

***2939. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the names of the castes declared as Agriculturists during the year 1950 ;

(*b*) the criterion followed in declaring a certain caste as agriculturist ;

(*c*) whether any enquiry was made in respect of castes declared as agriculturists before declaring them as such ; if so, the authority which conducted the inquiry ;

(*d*) the approximate area of land owned by the following castes and the number of persons belonging to these castes who depend on agriculture :—

Nai, Sunar, Kalal, Brahmins, Bawi, Sansi.

(*e*) the approximate area of land in possession of the following castes and the estimated number of them who depend on cultivation :—

Agarwals, Khatris, Kayasths, Aroras.

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

(*a*) Chamars, Ramdasias or Ravdasias, Ad-Dharmis, Mazhabis, Balmikis, Kabirpanthis (including Julahas), Dhanaks, Batwals,

[Minister for Revenue]

Meghs, Sanhais, Sanhals, Sareras, Bhanjras, Dumas or Mahashas, Bawarias, Ramgharia, Khatiks, Ods, Mehras, Kahars, Jhiwars, Tank Kashatris, Labanas, Nais, Kumhars or Parjapats, Sunar, Zargar, Mair, Rajbans, Saini, Godarias, Khatis, Ahluwalias, Kalals, Kashyap Rajputs, Drains, Ghais, Udasins, Gharit, Bahti, Chongh, and Khandelwal Brahmins.

(*b*) Those bodies of persons who follow the profession of agriculture and mainly depend on it or belong to village artisan classes and help in the operation of agriculture in the village, are declared as agriculturists.

(*c*) First Part ... No.

Second Part ... Does not arise.

(*d*) It is regretted that the time and labour involved in collecting the information will not be commensurate with any possible benefit to be obtained.

RECRUITMENT IN OMNIBUS SERVICES

*2979. **Master Gurbanta Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of conductors, drivers, clerks and Inspectors recently recruited in the Jullundur, Amritsar and Ambala Omnibus Services respectively together with the number of Harijans amongst them ;

(*b*) whether the 15 per cent ratio fixed for Harijans has been reached by the recruitment of Harijans referred to in para (a) above ;

(*c*) the total number of Harijans who had applied for the aforesaid posts ;

(*d*) the number of drivers involved in road accidents while driving the Omnibuses ;

(*e*) the punishment, if any, together with the nature thereof, awarded to the drivers responsible for the accidents ;

(*f*) the number of buses being operated at Jullundur, Amritsar and Ambala ;

(*g*) the average daily income from these centres ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram)

(*a*)

	Conductors		Drivers		Clerks		Inspectors.	
	Total No. of appointments.	No. of Harijans	Total No of appointments	No. of Harijans	Total No. of appointments	No. of Harijans	Total No. of appointments	No. of Harijans.
Amritsar Omnibus Service.	54	4	55	1	9	2	5	1
Jullundur Omnibus Service.	27	2	20	1	5	..	3	..
Ambala Roadways.	45	5	44	1	11	..	3	...
	126	11	119	3	25	2	11	1

(*b*) Not yet.

(*c*) 26.

(*d*) 15.

(*e*) Two drivers fined and sentenced to imprisonment, one fined, ten acquitted and the cases of two are pending in the Court.

(*f*) 167.

(*g*) Rs. 15,250.

Master Gurbanta Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary kindly let us know whether the percentage fixed for Harijans has been reached in the recruitment of Harijans in connection with the Omnibuses ?

Parliamentary Secretary : So far as the recruitment of Harijans is concerned, Government has issued instructions fixing their ratio in the services at 15 per cent. But there are other conditions attached to it, which are to be observed at the time of recruitment of Harijans. Firstly, the candidates must possess the minimum qualification prescribed for that job and secondly, they should be considered suitable for Government Service. So all those Harijans who were found suitable and possessed the requisite qualifications were recruited.

Master Gurbanta Singh : May I enquire from the Parliamentary Secretary the number of Harijan conductors, who got training in Jullundur and were granted certificates of competence ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I require notice for collecting this information.

Master Gurbanta Singh : May I know whether Government intends to give full representation of 15 per cent in the services to the Harijans ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Most surely. It is the genuine desire of the Government to give the Harijans their due share in the services. But it is obliged to keep the possession of requisite qualifications by the candidate and his suitability in view.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : May I know whether Harijans will ever acquire suitability for service, as required by Government or is it only an excuse put forward by the Government to deprive the Harijans of their due share ?

Minister for Public Works : They will certainly acquire suitability for service.

Master Gurbanta Singh : May I know if the number of qualified trained Harijan conductors is found to be more than two, will the Government take serious action against the officer who is responsible for not recruiting the duly qualified and trained Harijan conductors ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Government will certainly look into the matter.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know what are those qualifications and experience required of the conductors and which the Harijans did not possess ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the hon. Member gives notice, necessary information will be collected. I would, however, refer him to the rules on the subject.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know from the Parliamentary Secretary whether apart from training qualification, any other qualification is also required of the drivers and conductors etc.?

Parliamentary Secretary : I am not aware of any other qualification.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please tell us the qualifications which were required of the candidates in connection with the recruitment of drivers, conductors etc. for Ambala Roadways ?

Parliamentary Secretary : I would refer the hon. Lady Member to the rules on the subject.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it a fact that apart from being trained, a candidate must also possess this qualification that his name must appear in the list of candidates approved by the hon. Minister-in-charge ?

Parliamentary Secretary : This is absolutely wrong.

Minister for Public Works : This is an insinuation.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether he is prepared to take action in the matter if it is proved to the hilt that the recruitment of personnel for Ambala Roadways was made from the approved list of candidates given by the hon. Minister-in-charge ?

Minister : This is not a fact. It is the habit of the hon. Lady Member to make such insinuations both in public meetings as well as on the floor of the House.

Deputy Speaker : I would tell the hon. Minister that his reply is not happily worded.

Minister : I am sorry that I was provoked to make such a reply.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Minister would have been justified in making such a reply if the thing referred to had actually been placed before him.

Minister : But when an hon. Member exceeds certain limits, he or she is bound to receive such a reply.

Deputy Speaker : I, however, wish to hear a reply given with responsibility by the hon. Ministers.

Minister : The wishes of the hon. Deputy Speaker will be respected.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Madam. Is it not responsibility of an hon. Minister to make a reply in such words as do not reflect on the dignity of the House and the prestige of the Government ?

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Lady Member would not have raised this point of order, if she had carefully heard what I said to the hon. Minister ?

Shrimati Sita Devi : But the hon. Deputy Speaker did not castigate the hon. Minister sufficiently.

Deputy Speaker : I am sorry I cannot act upon the advice of the hon. Lady Member. I am here to do justice to all and not unnecessarily castigate anybody. (*Hear, hear*).

Master Gurbanta Singh : May I know whether non-Harijan candidates recruited as conductors or drivers, etc., were better qualified than the Harijan candidates ? If so, in what respects ?

Minister : Non-Harijan candidates are expected to be in possession of better qualifications than the Harijans.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It is necessary that under the rules the Harijan candidates should compare favourably with the non-Harijan candidates in the matter of requisite qualifications ?

Minister : Yes almost equal. But a little difference in the qualifications of Harijan candidates is ignored.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated that the qualifications in the case of Harijan and non-Harijan candidates should almost be equal, but the other day the hon. Chief Minister had stated in reply to a question of this nature, that with a view to giving 15 per cent representation in services to the Harijans, the condition of qualifications will be relaxed in their case. May I know whether the statement of the hon. Minister or that of the hon. Chief Minister should be treated as correct ?

Minister : I put it to you Madam, whether my reply is in anyway different from that of the statement made by the hon. Chief Minister ? The hon. Member has kept in view only the first part of my reply.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : May I know whether the fraud which has been played with the Harijans in this department is also being played with them in other departments too ?

Minister : No fraud has been and is being played with the Harijans in any of the departments. The allegations of the hon. Member are baseless.

ARRESTS OF GROWERS.

*2442. **Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of arrests made of the growers for not reporting about their foodgrain stocks to the District Food Controller, as required by the Government together with the number of convictions and acquittals separately in the State ;

(*b*) the number of such arrests and convictions in District Rohtak, about gram stocks before its decontrol ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(*a*) Thirteen. Three cases in which action was taken in Hissar District were cancelled. The accused in two cases out of six in the Karnal District were acquitted and the remaining cases are under investigation by the Police.

(*b*) Four cases were registered by the Police in the Rohtak District and all these were discharged by the Court.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : In view of the reply of the hon. Minister that four persons were discharged after prosecution, may I know if the basis of the prosecutions was wrong or they were discharged out of favouritism ?

Minister : I am sorry my hon. Friend has not understood the reply which I have already given.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I am asking about Rohtak. The hon. Minister has in his reply stated that all the four persons were discharged after prosecutions. What I want to know is this whether the basis of their prosecutions was wrong either due to any weakness in the prosecution or due to any wrong judgment ?

Minister : I cannot add anything more to what I have already stated.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know from the hon. Minister whether any action has been taken against those officers who submitted wrong reports about the four persons who were ultimately discharged ?

Minister : Neither the reports were wrong, nor was there any necessity to taken any action.

RESETTLEMENT OF MUSLIMS

***2645. Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of Muslims, who left this State in the year 1947 and have since returned ;

(*b*) the names of the Districts in which they have now settled ;

(*c*) the facilities which the Government have given them to resettle in this State ;

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(*a*) 16,362.

(*b*) Ambala, Gurgaon. Karnal, Hoshiarpur, Ferozepore, Rohtak, Jullundur, Kangra, Ludhiana and Hissar.

(*c*) They have been advanced taccavi loans amounting to Rs. 3,07,518 for the purchase of bullocks, repair of houses, purchase of seed, agricultural implements and food. Lands and houses have also been restored to those Muslim returners who were found entitled in accordance with the provisions of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act (Central) XXXI of 1950.

ANTI SMUGGLING AND ENFORCEMENT ORGANISATION

***2656. Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state : –

(*a*) the number of cases detected by the Anti-Smuggling and Enforcement Organisation under the Central orders in the State from January 1950 to January 1951 district-wise ;

(*b*) the total number of arrests made in this connection ;

(*c*) the number of prosecutions launched district-wise ;

(*d*) the nature of articles seized district-wise together with their approximate value ;

(*e*) the amount of fines realized from the offenders ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

A statement giving the required information is laid on the table†.

†Placed in the Library.

GRANT OF PERMITS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF VEGETABLE PRODUCTS IN THE STATE.

*2659. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government has received applications from certain business magnates of the State asking for the grant of permits for the manufacture of vegetable oil, vanaspati etc., in the State ; if so, the number of such applications together with the names of the applicants to whom permits were issued ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail : Yes ; two applications have been received since partition one from the Amritsar Sugar Mills Company Ltd., Amritsar and other from Messrs. S. G. Vegetable Products, Abdullahpur, but none of them has so far been issued any permit.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : On what grounds have these permits been refused to them ?

Minister : Permits were not given to the Sugar Mill Company, Amritsar, as it had given in writing about its intentions not to receive any such permits. So far as the other Mill is concerned, the Punjab Government had already recommended its case to the Central Government which did not find it advisable to issue any permits to it.

HOUSES OF MUSLIM EVACUEES.

*2660. **Dr. Sant Ram Seth** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total number of evacuee houses left by Muslims in the State ;

(*b*) the total number of such houses rented out so far ;

(*c*) the total amount collected on this account by the Rent Controllers in the State district-wise ;

(*d*) the total amount spent on the repairs of such houses ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

It is regretted that it is not considered to be in the public interest to collect and make available the information asked for by the hon. Member.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : How is it detrimental to the public interest ?

Deputy Speaker : This is an argument.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Madam, I want to know the reasons as to why it is detrimental to the public interest ?

Minister : Lest the Pakistan people should come to know about it.

SALE OF DAMAGED WHEAT IN THE STATE.

***2670. Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a certain quantity of damaged wheat was recently sold to a certain starch factory in the State ;

(*b*) the total quantity of wheat so sold together with the rate thereof ;

(*c*) whether the tenders were invited by the Government ; if so, the names of such tenderers ;

(*d*) whether the wheat was sold to the party that had submitted the lowest tender ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Maunds 29,315-9-3 at Rs. 5 per maund.

(*c*) Yes. The names of tenderers are :—

(*i*) Messrs Bharat Starch & Chemicals Ltd., Abdullahpur.

(*ii*) Messrs Krishna Flour & Oil Mills, Amritsar.

(*iii*) Messrs Sukhjit Singh Starch & Chemicals Ltd., Phagwara.

(*iv*) Messrs S. N. Industrial Corporation Ltd., Sanjeli (Bombay).

(*d*) No.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Is it a fact that instead of selling the damaged wheat to those who offered higher rates, it has been sold to those who gave lowest quotations ?

Minister : Yes, it is a fact.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know the reasons as to why it has been sold to those who quoted the lowest rates ?

Minister : Because th Government of India has fixed the ceiling price of the damaged wheat. It was not, therefore, possible to charge more than the price already fixed by the Government of India.

Shri Prabobh Chandra : Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the Food Ministry of the Government of India has issued a circular to the effect that damaged wheat should be sold to starch factories only ?

Minister : According to this circular, only that quantity of wheat had to be sold to the starch factories which was unfit for human and animal consumption.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Appointment of Deputy Transport Controller.

*3267. **Shri Virendra** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Shri Sita Ram has been appointed as Deputy Transport Controller ; if so, the date of his appointment ;

(*b*) the date when his case was referred to the Public Service Commission ;

(*c*) the recommendations of the Public Service Commission, if any, in his case ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Thakur Beli Ram) :

(*a*) Yes, it is a fact that Shri Sita Ram was appointed as Deputy Transport Controller, (Technical and Commercial) with effect from 27th September 1950 (afternoon).

(*b*) A formal reference has not been made yet to the Public Service Commission in view of the fact that we are in correspondence with the Government of India to settle the question of lien of L. Sita Ram and the transfer of his services to Government of India.

(*c*) In view of reply at (*b*), question does not arise.

Shri Virendra : May I know whether it is a fact that every such appointment has to be referred to the Public Service Commission according to the Constitution ; if so, the reasons why this case was not referred to the Public Service Commission ?

Parliamentary Secretary : It is not a question of direct appointment but of promotion. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Virendra : May I know when will the decision be taken in this regard ?

Parliamentary Secretary : His services were lent to the Government of India and he has recently reverted to his post in this State. We are collecting necessary information to complete his service book.

Shri Virendra : May I know if his services were lent to Government of India under an order of this Government ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Yes.

Shri Virendra : May I know whether this order was duly notified in the Government Gazette ?

Parliamentry Secretary : Yes.

Shri Virendra : When was this notification made ?

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN RELIEF CAMPS.

***3291. Shri Ram Sharma :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government servants serving in Relief Camps on deputation are not getting the pays of the posts on which they are serving, but are getting only their substantive pays ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(*b*) the ratio between those who are recruited direct and those from other departments to serve in the Camps referred to above ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(*a*) (*i*) Under the present practice, no.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

(*b*) No ratio has been fixed.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Discharge of Revenue Patwaris in district Gurgaon.

750. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether any of the Revenue Patwaris of Gurgaon District whose services were terminated during the year 1947-48 handed over the charge of the revenue records to their successors according to the rules ; if so, their list along with the names of circles in which they were working at the time of their discharge ;

(*b*) the date when the charge of Revenue Records was taken in each circle along with the name of the Revenue Patwari who took over the charge ;

(*c*) the list of the patwaris along with circles referred to in part

(*a*) above, who refused to hand over the papers which were in their custody ;

(*d*) whether in any circle Revenue Patwaris were found missing along with the records ; if so, the list of such Patwaris ;

(*e*) whether in any circle referred to in part (*a*) above revenue records in the custody of patwaris were found missing ; if so, their list and the reasons therefor in each case ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the hon. Member when ready.

ASSESSMENT OF ABIANA IN THE STATE.

751. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the total amount of *abiana* assessed in the State during the years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51, respectively ;

(*b*) the total amount remitted during each of the years referred to in part (*a*) above ;

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(c) the total amount actually spent by the State Government on the Irrigation Department including maintenance and repairs of the canals during each of these years ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava : The information is being collected and will be supplied when ready.

RATES OF TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE AND CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE.

752. Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) with reference to his statement in reply to my starred question No. 2719, the rates of travelling allowance and conveyance allowance respectively of hon. Ministers, Heads of Departments, 1st and 2nd Grade Officers in each of the sister States referred thereto ;

(b) whether there is any difference between the rates of travelling allowance and conveyance allowance of Punjab State and other States ; if so, a statement showing the differences found regarding each State be laid on the Table.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) & (b) A statement ' A ' showing the rates of travelling allowance and conveyance allowance drawn by hon. Ministers of this State as well as by the hon. Ministers of other States is enclosed.†

No separate information in respect of Heads of Departments is available. The information available in respect of 1st and 2nd Grade Officers is given in the enclosed* Statements ' B ' and ' C.'

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION(1949-50)

Chief Minister : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, as required by Article 323 (2) of the Constitution, I lay upon The Table of the House the Annual Report for the period from 1st April, 1949, to 31st March, 1950, presented by the Punjab Public Service Commission to the Governor as to the work done by the Commission.

†Vide page (9) 16.
*Kept in the Library.

I may inform the House that there is no case mentioned in this Report in which the advice of the Commission has been ignored by the Government. The case mentioned at paragraph 25 of the Report has not been decided so far, though at present action in this behalf is proceeding strictly on the lines of the advice tendered by the Commission.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS (1948-49).

Chief Minister : Sir, as required by Article 151(2) of the Constitution of India, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Appropriation Accounts of the State for the year 1948-49 and Audit Report thereon. The approval of His Excellency the Governor has been obtained.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1951

Chief Minister : Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Appropriation Bill.

Chief Minister : (*Hindi*)I beg to move.

That the Punjab Appropriation Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Madam, we have passed the Budget and according to the Constitution this Appropriation Bill has also to be passed. I, therefore, move that this Bill be taken into consideration.

Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

that the Punjab Appropriation Bill be taken into consideration once.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : (Hansi, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) :

Madam, we have assembled here and have been carrying on our deliberations for the last one month for the well-being of our State. You know that a regular discussion has been going on in this House on the Budget and each demand has been discussed separately. You have listened to the replies given by the hon. Chief Minister who also holds the portfolio of Finance. First of all the hon. Chief Minister while replying to the debate on the general discussion of the Budget remarked that during the pre-partition days the Government paid closest attention to the development of the West Punjab. The responsibility for this he said, lay with the previous Government and particularly the Unionist Government. I agree with him that the Government's activities were then centred upon the systematic development of the West Punjab. But what do we see here ? The Government is liberally spending money on development schemes in some

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districts while it is stingy in the allocation of funds for the welfare of the people in other districts. *(At this stage the Chief Minister left the Chamber)* I request the hon. Chief Minister to sit in the Chamber and listen to my speech. I wish to bring to your notice, Madam, that he has not been sitting in the House for some days and has not been giving attention to the speeches made in the House.

Deputy Speaker : It is better that he should be present in the Chamber. If he is not here you may continue your speech.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Madam, my object in saying so is that the whole responsibility of running the administration lies in fact on the Chief Minister and it is not proper that he should attach no importance to the proceedings of this House. You know that Budget Session is very important and it is, therefore, essential that the hon. Chief Minister, who has under his charge so many departments and is the supreme head of the Government, should occupy his seat in the Chamber to listen to the speeches of hon. Members. It is better that he gets first-hand knowledge of the criticism that is made by the Opposition instead of depending upon the brief notes delivered to him by his Parliamentary Secretary or other Ministers. He should have boldly faced the music but it appears that he has not the guts to hear criticism of the Government. He has of late been attaching more importance to other affairs than the business of the Assembly. The hon. Chief Minister had remarked that the Government of united Punjab had been allocating funds liberally for the development of West Punjab but may I know why the present Government is following in the footsteps of that Government by spending money parsimoniously in Ambala Division ? I am not saying so with a view to suggesting to the Government to pay little attention to the other districts as well. But I must say that if a limb of a body is weak the whole organism would suffer. Similarly the policy of the Government should be such as to strengthen the undeveloped and backward areas so that our State may become a strong unit as a whole. Madam as you know if any part of the body is weak or diseased it disfigures and deforms the whole body. So is the case with a backward area in a country or a State. This ugly spot not only detracts from the magnificence of the body politic but weakens it as well. It is with deep regret that I have to say that sufficient attention has not been given while preparing this

Budget to the need for advancement of the underdeveloped areas of this State which comprise the districts of Kangra and Gurgaon and parts of Gurdaspur, Karnal and Hissar. If we were to consider as to what proportion of the total budgetary amount is proposed to be spent on these backward areas, we shall come to the conclusion that what to speak of giving extra attention to them, even their due share is not being allowed to them. The old policy of ignoring the backward areas and spending most of the money on comparatively advanced areas is still being continued. I wish Dr. Sahib, who himself, while he was in the opposition, used to feel that injustice was being done to the backward areas, should not have repeated the same mistake of ignoring these parts of the State.

Madam, ever since the coming into power of this Government, this feeling has been gaining ground among the people of Haryana that they cannot expect a fair deal from it in any matter whatever. Their doubts about the intentions of this Government towards them have been confirmed by its latest schemes concerning the distribution of waters that will be available after the completion of Bhakra Dam. Since 1919 these people had been pinning their hopes on the supplies of water from Bhakra Dam. Madam, you can understand the bitterness and the disillusionment they are experiencing on having come to know that very little quantity of water is proposed to be supplied to their districts which are thirsting for water. All these years Haryana and Bhakra Dam were mentioned together so much so that people could not think of the one without thinking of the other. But what do we find today—a repetition of the old story so common in Joint Punjab of waters being diverted to other districts ignoring those who need them the most. Where are those maps in which Haryana Districts were for years together shown as they would be recipients of the benefits accruing from the Bhakra Dam? Where are those vaunted claims of turning the deserts of Hissar and Gurgaon into smiling fields of wheat and cotton? Madam, this pamphlet on Irrigation published by the Government clearly shows that barring some area in District Karnal and a few parts of Tehsil Hansi in Hissar, no other area will receive water for irrigation from the Bhakra Dam. No water is proposed to be given to tehsils Bhiwani, Sirsa, and Fatehabad, nor to any part of the Districts of Rohtak and Gurgaon. I can understand the anxiety of the Government to run the Irrigation Department on commercial lines but as to why sufficient supplies of water should not be made available to Hissar, which by the way is the District

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having the largest cultivated area (about 23 lakh acres), and another Haryana District, which given the irrigational facilities can produce thousands of tons of foodgrains, is to my mind absolutely incomprehensible.

Madam, for all living beings two things viz, air and water are essential We are grateful to God that he has allowed all of us to partake of the first in plenty and without any expense. As regards the second, most of us are lucky in getting it almost without any expense or difficulty. But there are a number of our unfortunate brethren who have not got an easy access to it and have to undergo great pains to be able to reach it with a view to quenching their thirst. While in most other countries where such a problem existed efforts have been made by the Governments concerned to bring drinking water within the easy reach of all, such areas still exist in our State where people have in order to fetch water for drinking purposes, to traverse distances of ten or even fifteen miles every day. What a pity that such conditions should be allowed to continue by a Government which calls itself popular and civilized ! People living in several parts of the former states of Pataudi, Dujana and Loharu and Tehsil Jhajjar are still faced with the problem of procuring drinking water and instead of making any immediate effort to relieve their distress their long cherished hopes of ultimate relief through the waters of Bhakra Dam have also been dashed to the ground. True, these areas are far-removed from the source of supply but what Governments of other countries have been able to achieve, surely there is no reason why with all the modern machinery and the knowledge of the method of 'lifts' our Government cannot achieve. I mean bringing the waters of Bhakra Dam within the reach of these people who are daily faced with the problem of finding water for drinking purposes. I am certain that according to the previous plans as much as three-fourths of the water supplies from Bhakra Dam were to be made available to the Hariana districts. Let the hon. Chief Minister show me the old files and I shall prove the truth of what I am saying.

But now we find that not even half of this water will be given to the Hariana Prant and that quantity of water which had been earmarked for this area is to be diverted to other areas which are not so needy as this Prant is. I feel that it is a great injustice that is being done to my ilaqa. My ilaqa deserves much more than any other area of the State. I would certainly have no grouse against the Government or any other

person if water from this source is given to other ilaqas after our needs have been met. It is possible that the Government may come forth with the excuse that there had been no such decision about the distribution of water. This excuse is not likely to satisfy anybody. I am personally aware that such a decision existed in black and white. It was decided that water from this source was mainly meant for my ilaqa and I request the Government that that very decision should be implemented as that is calculated to bring about the uplift of a very deserving part of the State. Our hon. Chief Minister should be bold enough to stick to that decision and should not care if anybody takes it into his head to offer opposition. He should show to the people by his actions that he is their well-wisher. Now times have changed and the masses cannot be placated by mere talk. They want deeds and if somebody wishes to convince them he should not fail in the performance thereof.

Here is another very constructive suggestion. I am of the opinion that if we wish well by our State and wish to bring about the welfare of our rural population we should take steps to encourage the co-operative movement particularly when it is not possible for us to do away with the evil of controls. Personally I am of the opinion that no controls are necessary. Our hon. Chief Minister has himself claimed that by virtue of the good offices of the Government a statement which I greatly doubt —we are surplus in food. He went on to say that being surplus in food we had been sending lakhs of tons of food to other States. I very much like this spirit because I feel that if we are in a position to help our brethren in other States, we should help them even if we have to suffer some difficulties for sometime. But then in these circumstances when we are surplus in food, I also feel that there is no necessity of controls in this State. The controls on the inter-district movement of commodities are especially very harmful and should be removed without any delay. There are two advantages of taking such a step. In the First place the people will be saved from a great bother which they are being put to every day while making purchases for their every day needs and secondly the huge staff which is working for the Civil Supplies Department will be released for doing some more useful work. But, if it is considered that controls cannot be done away with at present we should do all we can to put an end to the black market which is a constant source of trouble to our people. I think that it is not difficult to achieve t..is and if we make use of the co-operative societies which exist almost in every village. As a matter of fact I do not understand the reason why the agency of the

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co-operative societies is not being employed for eradicating black market despite the fact that a resolution to this effect was passed by this august House about a year ago. The co-operative societies are sure to prove very useful for distributing the controlled commodities in the various parts of the State. In the first place there being so many Members of a society there is no likelihood of anybody practising black market and even if somebody is audacious enough to do that, that will be for the good of all. But here there is one thing more of which I must make a mention. It is this. When I suggest establishment and use of the co-operative societies for the good of the consumer I am also in favour of establishing co-operative societies for the good of the growers and the producers. The procurement schemes of the Government are not working properly and the Civil Supplies Department is rendering no useful service in this connection. It would be much better if the procurement schemes and the Civil Supplies Department are succeeded by the co-operative societies of the producers and the producers are enabled to sell their produce through these agencies. There is another thing which I wish to submit in this connection. On going through the volume of New Expenditure, I find that many un-necessary departments and posts have been created. Instead of spending money on the masses, it is being spent in paying salaries to Government officers. It appears that if some officers ask for a few more clerks or peons, the Government sanctions those posts without examining whether there is actual necessity for creating additional posts or not. The Finance Department and other departments concerned appear to exercise no control in such matters. I feel that instead of undertaking productive schemes for the effective good of the masses, the Government is spending most of its revenues in paying the salaries to its officials.

There are one or two more things to which I wish to refer. It is expected as we have been told in the Budget also, that general elections would be held towards the end of this year. In this connection, I wish to place certain facts before the House to show that the Government is not acting in a straightforward manner. Without consulting this House or the general public, the Government says that the people want the distinction between the rural and urban constituencies to disappear. If the people really desire that the rural and urban seats

should be amalgamated, it may be done by all means, but I strongly object to the adoption of underhand means for achieving that object. Our Government is trying to do this thing through the backdoor. I might point out that a Committee for the delimitation of constituencies was appointed four or five years before the enforcement of Government of India Act, 1935. That Committee thoroughly examined the question and took a number of years for completing the delimitation work. Here, however, the hon. Speaker too had to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of setting up a Committee for delimiting the constituencies for the first general elections under the new Constitution. The Government did not care to do so one or two years earlier. What is being done now ? Without taking this House into confidence or consulting the public, our Government has written to the Government of India that the people want the amalgamation of rural and urban constituencies. This will do a great injustice to the zamindars and rural people It is an onslaught on their legitimate rights and will considerably weaken their position. I have been always saying that the policy of this Government is against the interests of villagers and zamindars. It wants to deprive them of their rights and has adopted a very clever and underhand method to do so. They wish the urban people to dominate the ruralites. It was the duty of the Government to take the House into its confidence before making any such recommendation. If the people really desired the amalgamation of rural and urban constituencies, there could be no objection to doing so. Then arose the question of delimitation of constituencies. In this connection also the Government has sent its own proposals to the Government of India. When a hue and cry was raised that the public had not been consulted a sub-committee was constituted for throwing dust into the eyes of the public. Now I wish to say a few words about the treatment which was meted out to this sub-committee. It was considered a useless sub-committee and without caring to look at its proposals the Government sent its own suggestions to the Government of India. This committee was asked to give its findings in a very short time, failing which the Government would have to arrive at some decision itself. The proposals of this Committee were treated as a worthless scrap of paper. I shall not be surprised if some of the hon. Ministers even were consulted about this matter. All this has been done purposely with a view to

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weaken the rural people. Keeping the interests of a few individuals or a particular party in view, they have decided to injure the interests of the rural people by underhand means. This is not a fair attitude and is sure to do great harm to the State. I shall ask those who are connected with the rural people to ponder over this matter. They should think over the treatment which the Government is according to the ruralites. It will be said that I think on communal or sectional lines and am not a nationalist. In this connection I wish to make it clear that if the Government acted honestly we would be prepared to make any sacrifice. Nobody can object to making sacrifices for the sake of the country, but it is not proper to resort to underhand means. The Government is trying to weaken the rural people. It will not be correct to say that the Government has arrived at these decisions from the nationalist point of view. It is clear that they want to strengthen the urban people, whose number is very small, at the cost of a large number of the rural population. This is highly un-patriotic and anti-national.

There are one or two things more to which I wish to refer. Last time also it was pointed out that a number of items of expenditure incurred by the Government were unnecessary. The Government has supplied jeep cars to the officials of various departments. It is said that the officials of the Excise, Police, Grow More Food and some other departments have to tour the countryside. I shall ask the Government to impress on the people and its officials the necessity of making sacrifice for the sake of the country. If our funds do not allow the purchase of a large number of jeep cars, we should be able to do without these. In America every family is said to possess a motor car. That, however, is not possible in the case of this poor country. It is therefore not proper to say that because jeep cars are used for certain purposes in other countries, we should also have these We have to look to our finances. Our forefathers have been of the opinion that we should not spend beyond our income. If our pocket does not permit we should not incur big expenditure just to imitate people who are richer than ourselves. Even if it is admitted that the jeep cars are necessary, I would suggest that instead of providing a jeep to every officer, a company in every district should be given permits for five jeeps, which should be utilized by the Government officials whenever

they have to go anywhere on Government business. These five jeeps should be used by the officials at the time of need and not otherwise. It is my personal experience that most of the expenditure on the jeep cars has been improper and uncalled for. They are so carelessly used that for fifteen days out of a month they remain out of order. Nobody cares to get them repaired. Besides this, the Government has to pay salaries of the drivers of these jeeps. This expenditure can also be avoided if jeeps are withdrawn and instead arrangements are made with local companies. In that case, the Excise Department officials or the police officers, whenever they have to go out on a raid or some other Government business, can get the jeeps from the company which is entrusted the task of maintaining the jeeps for the Government. The position at present is that the Government officers have sold their private cars and are using Government jeeps for every Private work. For instance, if they have to go to cinema or to attend a party, they go in Government jeeps. Their children also utilise the same jeeps. All this expenditure on jeeps and the salaries of the drivers is going waste. This waste can be avoided if in every district five jeeps are placed with a company on the condition that they would be used by the officers only on Government business. They can be hired on daily wage basis from that company at the time of need. In this way, the expenditure on the salaries of the drivers and on the maintenance of the jeeps can be avoided. All this expenditure will be borne by the company concerned which would earn something by using the jeeps privately when they will not be required by the Government Officers. The Government should take this step unmindful of the question of false prestige and what the people might say. I myself want that our brethren should live in big bungalows and should ride in big cars. But we are helpless ; we cannot provide these things to them. We should think along the line that ours is a poor State. Our State has suffered many hardships after the partition. The Government as well as the people have suffered. It has had to face many difficulties. We should act keeping in view the fact that we have to build this State of ours. If we keep this thing in view, I think the expenditure amounting to crores of rupees, not to speak of lakhs, for which provision has been made in this big budget, can be avoided. But this can be done only if the Government has a mind and necessary guts to do so. This can be done only if it pays no heed to what some people might say against this move. It should know that it cannot

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impress the public at large by simply getting the Ministers photographed and by publishing their photographs. If the actions of the Ministers are good, they do not require any publicity and they can do without the services of the Public Relations Officers. There are at present a Director and two Deputy Directors of the Public Relations Department. There is no harm in creating posts which are necessary. We can have no objection in such cases. But there is a feeling in the public that posts are created only to provide for some individuals. The Government should try to win the public by its deeds and not by professions and mere propaganda. It cannot remain in power on the strength of the opinion of the Public Relations Department and its officers. If the Government lacks real merit, the people will throw it out unmindful of its strength. They see the real work done by the Government. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to follow the right path irrespective of what some interested persons might say.

There is one thing more to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. As I have already pointed out, we should attach greater importance to our deeds than to our professions. Day in and day out, we say that there is a scarcity of food grains in our country and we should therefore try to save as much as possible. But, what are the Government Officers actually doing ? Every day we find that conferences and meetings are held at Simla and Officers from the Districts come to attend those meetings. This gives them an opportunity to come here on pleasure trips and to see their friends. This curse of meetings and conferences can be done away with by sending instructions to the officers The Government should formulate its policy and then it should be the duty of the officers to carry it out. In this way, a lot of unnecessary expenditure can be avoided. Again, Madam, there is an order of the Government that the number of persons at a party should not exceed 25. But I know that in actual practice, there have been parties in which as many as 50 to 300 and 400 persons participated. It is said that for such parties Government permission is obtained. But the fact is that those who get permission are Government Officers and those who give permission are also Government Officers. The permission, therefore, must be given. If the Government wants to impress the people with its actions, it shall have to put an end to these parties. We on our part are trying to do so. In our District, we have

decided that no marriage party should include more than five persons. This decision is not merely on paper. We have put it into practice. So much so that, at the time of the marriage of the daughter of our friend, Chaudhri Badlu Ram, the marriage party included ten persons. On our request, five of the party had to go back even after having reached our village.

[*At this stage the Deputy Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa.*]

In fact they did not care what their relatives might say. They tried to stick to the principle that not more than five persons should accompany a marriage party. Unless we work with such a spirit and by our own example show to the people that we really want the uplift and betterment of the State, nobody will have any confidence in us. I have taken more than the allotted time so I will take my seat after making one or two submissions more. I will not take much time in saying them. What I wish to impress upon the hon. Members is that we need take practical steps only. Mere propaganda is not going to regain the confidence of the public which the Government has lost. I have stated my views on the Appropriation Bill and have put forward certain suggestions. I do hope the Government will consider them and take necessary steps in the matter. With these words I resume my seat.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann : Sir, to-day being the last day to speak on the Budget a large number of hon. Members want to have an opportunity to express their views. I would therefore suggest that some time limit should be fixed.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Sir, during the discussion on the Budget I have spoken only for ten minutes. I hope to-day you will give me sufficient time to express my views on the subject.

Mr. Chairman : I would like to know, before I fix any time limit, as to how many members want to participate in the debate ? (*Thirteen Members expressed their desire to speak*). I may remind the hon. Members that guillotine is to be applied at 1-30 P. M. and the hon. the Leader of the House would require at least half an hour to reply to the debate. So we can go only up to 1 O'clock and thus have an hour and seven minutes. . ...

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Sir, before you give your ruling, which will constitute a precedent also may I draw your attention to the fact that the other day an hon. Member in the Parliament got

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up and requested the Chair to restrict the time of speeches as a large number of Members wanted to take part in the discussion. Sir, I draw your attention to the ruling given by the hon. Speaker of the Parliament; He said "I want quality and not number of speeches" and the hon. Speaker of the Parliament did not agree to restrict the time of the speeches It is for you to give whatever ruling you think fit but I want to submit that due to my illness I had had no opportunity to express my opinion and would like to have time enough to put my suggestions before the House.

Mr. Chairman: No doubt I also want quality in speeches but am of the opinion that every hon. Member is qualified to have his say and that every member is expected to contribute to the debate. I fix ten minutes for every Member who wants to take part in the debate.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann: Sir, may I make a suggestion with your permission? Those Members who have not spoken on the general discussion of the Budget or on General Administration should be given some more time.

Mr. Chairman: Every Member will get equal time and I call upon Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt to speak.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing North-Eastern Towns, General, Urban): Sir, it is unfortunate that the Leader of the House, the Speaker of the House and other hon Members of the House are after numbers.

The Appropriation Bill before the House has got, as any other Appropriation Bill in any other legislature, provincial or central, two fundamental aspects. One is financial and the other is the political aspect. Most of the speeches which have been delivered on the Budget and now on the Appropriation Bill, have dealt with, mainly, the political aspect of the Budget. I associate myse f with some of the criticism that has been levelled from the political point of view against the present Government and I regret I have no time to dilate upon the criticism that has been levelled against the Ministry, against the Government and against its various departments. Since I have very ittle time at my disposal I do not want to reitrate those charges against the Government which have already been made by the hon. Members

of the House. I will try to concentrate on the financial aspect of the Budget, which has not been discussed fully or mainly on the floor of the House. So far as the financial aspect of the Budget is concerned from my point of view, and I think I am in a position to form some opinion on the financial aspect, after having to do something for a short while with the finances of the state, it is a matter of sincere gratification that the finances of the State are in a sound condition. I have gone through the Budget and I have carefully read the speech of the hon. Chief Minister, who also holds the portfolio of finance, and I have no hesitation in saying that our finances are sound. I must also warn the House that our indignation, righteous or unrighteous on the political misdeeds of the Government should not debar us from studying the Budget on its merits, or even go to the length of congratulating the Government or the Chief Minister on the achievement if there is any. It is a matter for gratification and, therefore, I congratulate the Government and I congratulate the hon. Chief Minister that the Punjab is fortunate in having a state of finances which do not cause any anxiety, at least in the near future. What will happen in the distant future is no concern of mine and the Chief Minister because the future is moulded and guided not by conditions in the State, not only by the conditions in India but by conditions in far distant lands and international situation, by what happens in Korea, what happens in Western Germany and what happens in Persia. So far as our finances are concerned they are quite sound and, therefore, we can look forward to happy days and mould our economic policy to set on foot new schemes and not only set on foot but also continue the development of schemes that we have in hand. Mr. Chairman, there has been criticism in certain sections outside the House, perhaps inside the House also that in view of the loan account position of the Budget, the Punjab is heading towards bankruptcy. The main argument advanced by that section of critics is that loan account of the Punjab Government has gone very high, as high as Rs. 70 crores, and that the Punjab Government will not be in a position to pay that amount and so it is heading towards bankruptcy and disaster. I submit, Sir, that I respectfully differ from those critics who hold this view. My view is that the very fact that the Government has been able to raise Rs. 70 crores speaks volumes about the credit of the Punjab Government that it enjoys. It should be remembered that nobody is prepared to give a single pie to a bankrupt Government. My own personal opinion is that not only the argument

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about the loan account of the Punjab Government is in favour of the good credit of the Punjab but the Punjab is in a position to pay back that loan. I have, therefore, not been able to see much weight in the objection that has been raised against the betterment fee which is proposed to be levied in connection with the advantages that are going to be accrued to the State as a result of the completion of Bhakra and Nangal Projects. We should take pride where pride is due. It is highly unpatriotic on the part of those Punjabis to go about and say that the Punjab is heading towards financial bankruptcy. On the other hand it is the duty of every Punjabi to raise the credit of the State so that in future, if need be, we are able to raise loans. It is highly unpatriotic and most undesirable to do or say anything which might in any way undermine the credit of the State.

Mr. Chairman: I would ask the hon. Member to wind up.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : Just five minutes more, Sir. It is unfortunate that the Government of India have stopped the subsidy of Rs. one crore. I wanted to dilate on this point at some length but as the time at my disposal is short, I will only say that it is most ungrateful on the part of the Government of India to discontinue this subsidy to a province which came to the rescue of the country in a period of starvation, a province which is in a position to part with one lakh tons of food grains notwithstanding the fact that we ourselves are in difficulties in the matter of food grains. The stopping of that subsidy of Rs. one crore, in my opinion, is tantamount to a reflection on the confidence of the Ministry of the State. It looks as if the Ministry have not been able to convince the Government of India that our case is very strong and, therefore, this subsidy must continue.

So far as the expenditure side is concerned I have to draw your attention in a great hurry to the statement made by the hon. Chief Minister in his Budget Speech. The statement which has caused a misunderstanding in the Province and which I consider Sir, with due respect to the hon. Chief Minister, a dishonest statement.....

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order Sir. The hon. Member has used the word "dishonest". I want to have your ruling on the point whether the word is parliamentary ?

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I said "dishonest statement" this is not an unparliamentary expression. I call it a dishonest statement because it has appeared in the various newspapers and caused an impression in political circles in the State and in Government of India circles that....

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Sir, I again draw your attention to the word "dishonest". My submission is that he should use the word incorrect but he cannot say "dishonest statement".

Mr. Chairmna : The hon. Member will be well advised if he avoids using such objectionable words.

Chaudhri Krishna Gopal Dutt : I will now draw your attention to the statement I have referred above ; the Chief Minister says :

> Heavy cuts in expenditure had also been applied in order to reduce, as far as practicable, the anticipated deficit in the Revenue Account. Ordinary expenditure proposed by the Department was reduced by Rs. 79 lakhs and New Expenditure by over 1,25 lakhs.

Sir, the position is that in the year 1951—52 our expenditure is estimated at Rs. 16,70 lakhs. According to the revised estimates, expenditure for the year 1950—51 was Rs. 16,17 lakhs and in the year 1949- 50 it stood at Rs. 15,79 lakhs. The figures I have quoted have been taken from the Budget speech of the hon. Chief Minister and it is quite clear from these figures that the expenditure today is greater than the expenditure during the current year and the previous year. The lines that I read from the Budget Speech of the hon. Chief Minister say that drastic cuts have been made in the expenditure and that the expenditure proposed by the departments has been reduced by 79 lakhs and the New Expenditure by over Rs. 1,25 lakhs. It is clear from the lines that the reference is only to the proposals which were made by the Government departments. In the parlance of the Budget this cannot be called an expenditure. If the departments propose an expenditure of 300 crores and Government does not accept it, it cannot be said that the expenditure has been decreased. With these few observations I resume my seat as the time given to me is over though I had to say a lot on the subject. (At this stage the Deputy speaker resumed the Chair)

Chaudhri Sundar Lal : (Karnal North, General, Rural, Reserved Seat) (*Hindi*) : Madam, our Government is very inefficient. I will just relate a story which will clearly prove my contention. A poor man used to earn his living by collecting wood from the jungle and then selling it in the town. This would give him only a few annas a day but he could not make his both ends meet with this paltry sum. One day he approached the Raja and related his woeful tale of hunger and poverty to him. The Raja took pity on him and gave him his garden of "Chandan" wood, thinking that the sale of this costly wood would make him rich. The poor man felt happy but instead of selling the Chandan wood straightaway, he thought of converting the wood into coal and then sell it. He was under the impression that charcoal would fetch more price than the Chandan wood. (*Laughter*). He continued this process till excepting one tree the whole garden was burnt down. In the meantime the Raja thought that that poor man must have become very rich. He sent for him and on seeing him found that he was not well off. He felt sorry at his foolishness and then himself cut a piece of wood from that solitary tree and asked the poor man to go into the market and sell it. This piece of Chandan wood fetched two or three hundred rupees to him. Now he realised his folly and wept bitterly. But what could be done now ? His richness would have known no bounds had he not converted the Chandan wood into charcoal.

In the same way our Government is inefficient. It is a matter of deep regret that we do not receive just and fair treatment at the hands of the Government. It has not employed the resources judiciously.

Further, our Government which has made arrangements to exterminate locusts has not succeeded in putting an end to the Akali menace which we are at present faced with. I take the opportunity of appealing to the Government, through you, Madam, to save us from this Akali menace. It is high time that adequate steps were taken to keep these Akali swarms under effective control. The hon. Minister Sardar Kartar Singh declared a few days ago, in unequivocal terms that Harijans should go back to Pakistan and that there was no place for them here in India. Does he feel in the heart of his hearts that there is no place for us here in our country in general and in our State in particular? On the one hand we find colleges, well maintained roads, and adequate arrangements of water supply from Bhakra in the district of Hissar from which we find three

hon. Members of this House as the Members of the Cabinet, and on the other we do not find any such facilities being afforded to the people of my district *i. e.* the district of Karnal. In fact all the facilities which are allowed to people of the other districts are denied to the people of my district. If President Rajendra Prasad had also hailed from the disrtict of Hissar, which claims to have 3 Members in the Cabinet, I am sure he would have founded some places in this very district just like New Delhi and Lucknow. There are no schools and colleges, and no well-maintained roads in the rural areas of Karnal District. There are no bridges to be found within an area of 12 miles for the people to cross the river. In the absence of any bridge they have to walk 12 miles to cross the river. During the British regime boats were provided to enable the people to cross the river and now that we have our own Government, we do not find any boats for the convenience of the people of my district.

Further I would like to point out that the District Board of Karnal has closed nearly all the primary girls schools. There is no high school at Radaur. As the population of this district has increased due to the arrival of our displaced brethren, the opening of a high school is the crying need of the hour. In spite of my oft-repeated requests to the Government to make provision for a high school, no action whatsoever seems to have been taken by it so far.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I am very thankful to you for allowing me to speak on the General Administration of the Government of our State. I am of the opinion that the present Government is not the Government in the true sense of the word. Hence the question of its general administration does not arise.

Deputy Speaker : It would be better if the hon. Member speaks on the General Administration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House towards two cases of mal-administration of the Government. My intention in doing so is to make the Members in general and the hon. Chief Minister in particular feel for themselves whether the administration of the Government is really worth its name.

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

First of all I would like to place before you the case of Shri K. B. Datta, Senior Vice-President of the Ambala Municipal Committee. He was removed from the membership of the Ambala Municipality simply because he would not dance to the tunes of the Government. Madam, you will be pleased to learn that as the Senior Vice-President he was bold enough to expose the weaknesses of some of the hon. Ministers who in collusion with some Municipal Commissioners committed certain irregularities. He was bold enough to bring these glaring irregularities to the notice of the Government and was out to make the Government prosecute those Municipal Commissioners who by violating the Municipal Laws had resorted to mal-practices. Madam, I would like to submit that I had given notice of a question to the effect whether the Government removed Shri K. B. Datta from the membership of the Ambala Municipal Committee or the seat was declared vacant by it. When this question was asked on the floor of this House, the reply that I got was that Shri K.B.Datta was removed from the membership of the Municipal Committee. Here I would like to read out the order of His Excellency the Governor about the same case as was published in the Government Gazettee It is written therein :—

> In exercise of power conferred by Section 14 (c) of the Punjab Municipal Act, Governor of the Punjab is pleased to direct that for reasons of public interest the seat of Mr. K. B. Datta shall be vacated from the date of this notification.

Madam, I would like to draw your attenion to the fact that a Municipal Commissioner is removed from the membership of a Municipal Committee only when a notice under Section 16 of the Municipal Act is served upon him. Before removing such a member, charges are framed against him and he is given a chance to defend himself.

Deputy Speaker : Please do not refer to matters relating to individuals. Better say something about the General Administration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Since I have only ten minutes at my disposal, I shall only refer to two cases of the mal-administration of our Government. According to the conventions of the Parliaments no legislator can dare tell a lie (*jhoot*) on the floor of any legislature. (Voices : The word "lie" (*jhoot*) is unparliamentary)

Deputy Speaker : The word "lie" (jhoot) is unparliamentary. I would ask the hon. Member to withdraw it. He can use some other word instead, which is not unparliamentary.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Very well, Madam, I withdraw that word. I will say that such statements as are not based on facts are made on the floor of this House. On the one hand, we find a notification in the Government Gazettee to the effect that the seat of Mr. K.B. Datta shall be vacated and on the other in reply to a question regarding the same gentleman it is given out that Shri K.B. Datta is removed from the membership of the Ambala Municipal Committee. According to the provisions of the Municipal Act there is a great difference between removing a member from the membership and declaring the seat of a member vacant. You might be aware of the fact, Madam, that even the Tribune which has the largest circulation in our State, has in its editorial on 19th March, 1950 protested against the action of the Government. In fact the vernacular papers too have expressed themselves fully on this topic, with a view to protesting against the uncalled for action on the part of the Government. This is not all. "Atom" the leading weekly of Bombay has also expressed it in unequivocal terms that members of the Municipal Committees are harassed only to shield the irregularities and mal-practices of some of the Ministers. Our Govenment has really denied freedom to the people of our State. I am of the opinion that the Government which has denied Shri K.B. Datta, the Senior Vice President of the Ambala Municipal Committee, his right to defend himself against the charges framed against him, can no longer be called a Government in the true sense of the word, what to speak of its administration. Here I am reminded of how the real ruler of the subjects of the Czar of Rus sia was Rasputin. The concensus of opinion in every nook and corner of the State is that the *defacto* person who runs the administration of the Government is not the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava but Shri Sharma the astrologer. It is this astrologer who is at the helm of the affairs of the State and none else.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Madam. I would suggest that the hon. Member should not address other members by name but by the constituency they represent or by office.

Deputy Speaker : It is a suggestion and not a point of order.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The Government which has lost all its prestige and confidence of the public and cannot administer even-handed justice to its people and is running with the help of an astrologer can never remain in power for long.

Deputy Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member not to make such remarks. He should make constructive suggestion to the Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, I think the very basis on which the Budget has been prepared is wrong. The bulk of expenditure during the last four years has been incurred on the rehabilitation of the displaced persons. It is fair and proper that we should ask the Government of India to give extensive help for the rehabilitation of displaced persons as the top-ranking leaders who are at the helm of affairs themselves approved of the idea of partition. The Government of India should realise that it was all due to partition that the uprooted humanity suffered untold miseries. Since the partition was forced upon us, it is the duty of the Government of India to contribute liberally for rehabilitation of the displaced persons. If our Government had not been weak and had full support of the people and had not exhibited narrow outlook of clinging to office then I think it would have been able to put pressure upon the Government of India to solve all our problems arising out of partition. We did not accept partition that India should rise to glory on our ruins. We gave our blood and tears and made sacrifices so that India may be free but we did not do so that India should prosper at our cost. It does not become of India to have a happy and prosperous journey while the ship of our State is sailing on dangerous seas. It appears that our Government will take long to rehabilitate the displaced persons properly. But if the hon. Chief Minister, Publicity Department and the Finance Department continue to allow the officers to rob the poor people, then I think there is a little hope for our welfare under this Government. The people are anxiously looking towards the Government for solution of their problems and I should say that the Government should recognise its duty towards them.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa (Ex-member, West Punjab Assembly representing Sialkot, Sikh Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I will take very little time of the House as I know that this Appropriation Bill will be passed today in spite of our opposition. I will, however, draw the attention of the Government to the point that it should spend money in such a way that we may not at least cut a sorry figure before the public. The way in which the meetings of the Assembly are held is most disappointing. We come here to voice the grievances of the

people before the Government and express our views on important legislative measures that are enacted for the good of the people. But I am sorry to say that the experience of the last four years has shown that this Assembly has become a Budget Passing Assemby. We are not given ample time to express our views and the business of the House is transacted hurriedly by fixing the time-limit of ten minutes, I do not think that such state of affairs exists in any other Assembly As a matter of fact we cannot in this way satisfy the people outside that the money spent in connection with the holding of Assembly Session is usefully spent by the Government. Moreover I do not see any reason why the session is being held for a limited period. The Members should be given sufficient time to discuss the demand or any other item before the House instead of allowing them ten minutes only. The Government will be well advised to hold session for a longer period instead of rushing through the business hurriedly in this way. Our Constitution is based on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The Government has no doubt guaranteed fundamental rights but it is exercising its powers in such a way which is repugnant to the very rights guaranteed under the Constitution. I will quote a concrete example in this respect. You would have, Madam, read in the newspapers that in Hoshiarpur Sardar Narinder Singh who had been a member of the District Board for 14 years has been removed from the membership without any reason or any formal charge being framed against him. It is an encroachment on his rights and also on the rights of his voters who had elected him as such. Is this the way in which the Government is being run on democratic lines ? It is strange enough that the Vice-Chairman of a District Board should be removed from the membership merely because he raised his voice, against somebody, in the discharge of his official duties.

If we are really anxious that democracy should prove a success in our country, we shall have to allow equality of opportunity and dignity and status to all individuals. In a truely democratic way of life, everybody must be allowed full scope to make efforts for his material and moral welfare and develop his personality according to his potentialities. But it is very unfortunate that actions are not in accordance with our professions. If a subordinate Government servant were to be dismissed from service on the ground that since his younger brother is studying in M. A. or that he is having a Radio set (which in fact he got from his

[Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa]

parents-in-law) he is spending much more than the emoluments he gets from the Government, does not all talk of equality of status and opportunity sound absolutely empty ? Has no subordinate employee got the right to keep a radio set ? Why should anybody's honesty be suspected if his younger brother happens to be studying in M. A.

Then, Madam, if we really want democracy to prove a success in our country we will have to give thought to the reformation of our system of education which as it is, is not conducive to the growth of democratic outlook. If we continue to move in the old ruts, so far as the education of our children is concerned, I see no future for democratic institutions in this country. Madam, it is time the Government took steps to ban all denominational schools and colleges and assumed direct responsibility in the matter of dissemination of education. So long as the Arya, Khalsa, Mission and Islamia schools continue to exist as the chief educating agencies, it is idle to hope for the cultivation of a truly democratic outlook among the people. If we want to ensure the future of democracy, we will have to give the right type of education to our children who are going to be the country's future administrators. We have to begin by removing social inequality and snobbery from the field of education. All children when at school should be made to feel that they are of equal status and that nobody is superior just because he happens to have been born in a rich family. What are the conditions today ? There are children whose parents cannot afford to send them to school and there are others who do not even carry their books and are accompanied by a servant who carries them. As to the difference in the dress of the son of a richman and the son of a poorman, both studying in the same school, the less said the better. Such glaring differences in the modes of living of children should not be allowed to exist because they will hinder the growth of democratic outlook in them. At least in their schools the atmosphere should be such as to obliterate all distinction of wealth or poverty. Then let us take the case of the children of the poor who after the school hours loiter about in the bazars and try to pick pockets or make a few annas in some other way. Is this the type of human material to which we intend entrusting the task of preserving the democratic institutions that we have adopted ? Will such children become good citizens ? In connection with the reform of educational

system the excuse of paucity of funds is irrelevant. We have to find money for this purpose for without this reform this great democratic experiment, that we have launched, is bound to end in a fiasco. Heavens forbid, if democracy comes to grief in our country for want of proper education and we cut a sorry figure before the whole world. Why should the Government not draw upon the resources and wealth of those who are today financing the sectional and denominational institutions by imposing suitable taxes on them and with the money thus collected run such educational institutions as may be calculated to produce and turn out good citizens on whose shoulders may safely rest the democratic edifice that we have created and which we so earnestly wish to develop ?

Pandit Jiwan Lall (South West Gurgaon, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Sir, this is the final day of discussion on the Budget grants for the year 1951—52 and, therefore, I also want to avail myself of this opportunity to place my views about the allocation of expenditure before the House. First I would like to make a brief reference to the defects in the administration of our State which is notorious for the absence of justice and impartiality. How can these two qualities exist in our administration when the men at the helm of affairs, I mean, the Ministers, do not hesitate to interfere with its day to day working. I can cite scores of instances of the undue interference of the hon. Ministers—instances of compelling the officers to make wrong and unjust decisions. Any hon. Member who wants to hear them should contact me outside the House because I am not going to dwell on them on the floor of the House. It is a pity that our Government has so far failed to find honest persons to fill two important posts, namely, those of the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police in every district. So long as the incumbents of these posts are not men of unimpeachable integrity, it is idle to expect any improvement in the administration. The Government should make it a point to take prompt action in the matter whenever it comes to know that any of these officers in any district has a bad reputation. Then there is so much corruption rampant in the services but there is no law to check it. How can the corruption be put an end to when the conditions are such that the officials indulging in it are allowed to escape scot-free and those who lodge the complaints are vilified and harassed ? Persons like me who are anxious to start a crusade against corruption are not even informed of the result of the inquiry made in the complaints lodged

[Pandit Jiwan Lall]

by them. So I would urge the Government to give top priority to the question of eradication of this evil because so long as it exists there can be no improvement in the condition of the people.

Now I want to say a few words about my own District. We were dismayed to learn sometime back that according to the latest plans of this Government, no water would be made available from the Bhakra Dam to the District of Gurgaon. But recently we were assured by Mr. Gadgil that Gurgaon District will be given supplies of water from this Dam. Now I want to know the correct position from this Government. Is it or is it not proposed to give water to Gurgaon District? At present rainfall is the only source of water supply for us. A very large part of our District is arid and if water for irrigation is made available it can produce thousands of tons of foodgrains.

There is another important suggestion that I want to make in this connection. Out of the electric energy being generated at Faridabad township surplus power should be made available to Ballabgarh so that with its aid the people of that ilaqa may be able to solve the problem of water scarcity by installing machinery to work the tube wells. Then there are no industries, no factories, and no colleges in our District. It has always been unlucky and it continues to be so. As before the partition it was ignored and allowed to rot in solitariness so is the case now. Our Government appears to be ashamed of owning it as a part and parcel of its territory. It is still being regarded as belonging to U. P. The only industry which was being taught to the zamindars has been discontinued.

It is really sad to find that the Government does not think fit to continue small favours that it conferred on the people and is withdrawing the Party from Palwal.

Madam, I have drawn the attention of the Government a number of times to the fact that the refugee Patwaris who are appointed at Nuh and Ferozepore do not give a good treatment to the Muslim population of these places. These refugee Patwaris harass the Muslims and I have been suggesting that they should be replaced by some local officials. Unfortunately the Government has not paid any attention to this grievance of the Muslims so far and the Government is again requested to do the needful. Next I wish to point out that distinction between the words "Agriculturist" and "Non-Agriculturist" should be

immediately removed. To me at any rate it looks ridiculous that those who earn their livelihood by tilling the land should have to apply for a declaration that they should be treated as agriculturists. I want to say a few words about controls as well. I am of the opinion that the controls are rendering no useful service. They are, on the other hand, proving very harmful. We have not been able to eradicate black-market through the agency of these controls as we find that the public is buying its necessities in the black market every day. It is possible that some scope may be created for honest dealings if this evil is done away with. A word now about prohibiting the zamindars from removing earth and stones from their fields for constructing wells etc. I think that this practice has no justification and the zamindars should be allowed to make use of earth and stones from their fields for the construction of their wells. Here is a very useful suggestion, which, if adopted, will be of a very great advantage to the State. It is found that cows of the Hariana breed are being exported from the State. I am led to think that if this export of this breed continues for some time it may go out of existence altogether and the State may have to go without these useful cows. I should not forget to make a mention of the Muslims who have not gone to Pakistan and are living in District Gurgaon. It is a pity that despite the fact that they are citizens of our State no heed is paid to their applications for lands and they are being unnecessarily put to so much of expenditure on submission of applications. If no lands can be given to them they should be told so so, that they know where they stand. In the end I wish to say that the low-paid officials of the Government are not getting a fair deal. Their salaries are so low that it is not possible for them to make both ends meet. Their salaries should be increased because no Government can run its administration with any efficiency if its subordinate officials are not contented. If it is not ordinarily possible to increase the salaries of these officials I suggest that the salaries of the high paid officers should be decreased and some unnecessary high posts should be altogether abolished to accommodate the lower officials.

Deputy Speaker : I may, for the information of my hon. Brothers on the Opposition, say that according to the suggestion of my hon. Brother Sardar Bachan Singh one third of the total time was to be given to the Members of the Opposition and that 55 minutes were taken by my hon. Brother Chaudhri Suraj Mal.

Shrimati Sita Devi. (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General Women Urban. (*Hindi*): Madam, I wish that the amount provided in the Budget which has been passed and which is now to take the form of an Appropriation Act should be properly spent. For achieving this end I place before the Government a few constructive suggestions. I would urge the Government that it should try to satisfy the public. But the public will be satisfied only when it is shown some tangible results. These days it is not possible to please the public mind with beautiful speeches and long articles in the newspapers. The public wants two things from the Government and they are (*i*) food and cloth and (*ii*) a house. If a Government is capable of giving these two things to the people, it is only then that it can call itself a popular Government. So I request that in order to be called a popular Government the Government should look to the requirements of the people.

The second thing which I wish to discuss is very important. It is found that an evil is eating into the vitals of this Government and this evil is corruption and black market. Corruption and black market require immediate eradication. But unfortunately things are being done by the Government just in the opposite direction. Here I shall give an example. I believe that the Civil Supplies section of Julludur is corruption incarnate and if somebody wishes to do some useful work for that section he is not allowed to do so by the Government. It is observed that during the last few days three District Organizers have been transferred one after the other. I may be asked as to what was the reason for that. The reason was that in the first instance a District Organizer desired to bring a dishonest Inspector to book but the idea was not favoured by the hon. Ministers and he was transferred. His successor also met the same fate when he tried to liquidate corruption. The third man Mr. Suri who is known for his honesty and integrity was also not allowed to remain there. This is the sorry state of affairs which to-day exists and which I must most respectfully submit, should be got rid of.

The third point relates to the reduction which has been made in the rations. We are at present given only 4½ chhattanks of atta or food grains for a day. It may be argued that ration had to be reduced as food had to be sent from this State to other parts of the country. I

have no mind to find fault with this argument. But I ask, is there a person living in this State who lives on these 4½ chhatanks of atta and does not buy more of it in the black market ? When every one of us is going to the black market for food grains or atta should it not be patent to every eye that black marketing is existing on a very large scale. But then does anybody bother to put an end to it ? It is a pity that it appears to be nobody's concern.

There is another suggestion, which I wish to make. Of all the problems before us the refugee problem is the most important. The Central Government has spent crores of rupees for the rehabilitation of displaced persons and it has done some good. We have to see that the amount provided for rehabilitation in our Budget should be used properly. I feel that most of the money which is being spent on rehabilitation is being wasted. In this connection I wish to cite the case of work centres and weaving centres opened in Jullundur. These are serving no useful purpose except being a source of livelihood to those who are employed in them. Thousands of yards of Khaddar manufactured at the weaving centre are lying unused for want of demand in the market. It is priced so high that nobody likes to buy it. To meet this situation, the Government asked the Civil Hospital to use it for preparing clothes for the patients. The Hospital authorities replied that on account of the high price of that cloth, they could not purchase it unless the Government increased the amount of money placed at their disposal. Our Government then wanted this cloth to be used for binding the ledgers and registers used in the Government Offices, but it has not been used for that purpose either. Money intended for rehabilitation should not be used in this manner. The work centres have been opened for helping the rehabilitation of displaced persons. In these only those articles should be manufactured which can find easy market. At present most of the articles made in these centres find no demand in the market. If an enquiry is instituted it will be found that thousands of chaplis are lying unsold in the leather section of the work centre, Jullundur. Their price is so high as compared with the prices prevailing in the market, that nobody would like to purchase them. The Government should avoid spending money on such things. Similarly, the Government has opened vocational training centres where training in different crafts is imparted to men as well as women. I feel that one cannot learn anything in a period of six months. After a person leaves the vocational train-

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

ing centre, he is usually not in a position to do any work on the basis of his training. In this connection the Government has done another new thing. They have ordered that scholarships should be given to those ladies only who receive training in the Government Industrial Schools. These should have been given to widows living in the Refugee Camps and not to those who live with their guardians and have got their homes. I wish to point out that the refugee problem is so gigantic that unless this is solved, we can not do anything else. Refugee children deserve special attention of the Government. One comes across these children selling baloons or sweets in the streets, Whenever I come across such children, I enquire from them as to what they used to do before the partition. They generally say that they used to study in the fourth or fifth class. But now their fathers earn not more than twelve annas or a rupee a day and with that small amount they can not educate them. A large number of displaced persons are still unsettled. Unless the refugee problem is solved satisfactorily, the administration can not be carried on properly. There is no doubt that the displaced Punjabis have not spread their hands before anybody but if nothing is done for the coming generation, this State can make no progress. It is the duty of the Government to make suitable arrangements for the education of refugee children. No tuition fee should be charged from them in any school. If the refugee problem is not solved no power on earth can prevent the advent of communism, which is so much feared.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann (Jullundur Division Landholders): Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak although I have been rather late in catching your eye. It is really very unfortunate that this newly born State is subjected to so many natural calamities in quick succession, one bigger than the other in magnitude. Some months ago, before we hardly set up the work of quasi permanent allotment of lands, excessive rains brought in their train lot of floods which wiped out our standing crops. As a result, the sowing of rabi crop was also delayed. Then in this winter throughout there have been practically no rains except those which we have recently got. As a result of this, according to my estimate, there has been a loss of about 25 per cent of the crops. Madam, these things were still fresh in our minds when the locust swarms invaded our State and worked as the last straw on the camel's back. They have caused very severe

losses in the State and particularly in the Hoshiarpur and Jullundur Districts. I consider it my duty to express my sympathies to those brethren who have been the target of this invasion. A zamindar is very much attached to his crops. After sowing the seed he carefully watches the progress of the growth of the plants, and if after maturity those plants are destroyed before his very eyes, his feelings can better be imagined than described. The machinery of the Government started working rather late in this matter. But when it started working, it worked well and with the full co-operation of the public, I find that the situation is now well under control. Madam, I appreciate the good work done by the Government in fighting these locust swarms. But my charge against it is that though some months ago the anti-locust Department of the Government had made a forecast of the locust swarms visiting certain States—if I am not mistaken our State is one of them—the Government did not act promptly and take precautions to meet the menace. Valuable time was lost in making preparations and meeting the enemy even at the outset. However, I hope that the Government would take a lesson from this experience and fully equip itself in meeting such an emergency in future. On account of the recent rains, I think these swarms and the eggs have been killed to a great extent. But the danger is still there and I hope that the Government would in future fully prepare itself to meet such emergencies promptly.

Law and order in our State have greatly improved, but I dare say it is still not up to the mark. There are many tracts in the State where it is impossible to travel at night and there are certain parts where one cannot travel alone even during day. These conditions do not reflect well on the administration. His Excellency the Governor had said in his Address that many undesirable persons are holding licences. It might be so. Probably His Excellency forgot to say that there are also many desirable persons who, in spite of best efforts, are not able to get licences. In fact I am at a loss to understand what is the measure by which desirables and undesirables are separated. If the yard-stick is the Sub-Inspector of Police, then God help us. I know there are certain instances where he is the over-lord. Anybody who has incurred the wrath of this over-lord has to pay very heavy penalties. By a stroke of the pen he would convert a desirable man into an undesirable one and get his licence cancelled. His report is very often endorsed by the upper strata of officers and District Magistrates,

[Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann]

particularly the P. C. S class who are helpless to say 'no' to the stalwart Superintendent of Police of the District. I feel that this machinery should bo improved. I feel that justice is not done in many cases. I would suggest to the Government that, if possible, it should take into confidence non-officials when sanctioning or cancelling licences.

The Rehabilitation, the rural side of it, after about 3½ years is almost complete. Throughout this period, we have been criticising the department, not only criticising, but even rebuking it at times. Now I feel that the time has come when we should forget and forgive. The time has come when we should publicly thank the Department, right from the peon to the Financial Commissioner. When I ponder over the picture as it was in 1947 and think of the conditions when we crossed the bordar, when we had no shelter to put our heads under, when we had nothing to fall back upon, you can imagine my feelings now when we have got shelter and something to fall back upon. When I consider that in normal times the settlement of a district takes 4 to 5 years, this Department has done practically the settlement of the entire State in a lesser time. When I ponder and see the work of the Rehabilitation Department of the neighbouring State and compare it with that of ours, we are shoulders above. I do not know what words of praise I should give to this Department. I feel morally bound to pay my tribute to the Head of the Department, Mr. Thapar, who by his statesmanship and wisdom has piloted this Department so very well. I should also appreciate the work of Mr. Randhawa who has also taken a lot of trouble in the refugee problem.

Deputy Speaker : I would like to request the hon. Member that the five minutes I got out of the time of the hon. Chief Minister are already over. I hope he will not press for more time and will, thus, enable me to keep my promise held out to the hon. Chief Minister.

Chief Minister : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*). Madam, some of the speeches that have been delivered to-day are the same which were delivered during discussion on the Budget. But still, certain things which have been said, require reply on my part. The Appropriation Bill includes all the demands which have already been passed. Under the rules, it is necessary that this Bill should also be passed. If the position had remained as it was before, we would

have passed the Budget after having passed the demands. My hon. Friend Chaudhri Suraj Mal has laid great stress on the work of delimitation of constituencies which he said, had been done against the interests of the Zamindars in the Punjab. I may submit that this work is the responsibility of the Central Government. Whatever proposals were made, were made by the Sub-Committee appointed for this purpose by the hon. Speaker of this House. We forwarded the recommendations of this Sub-Committee as well as the proposals received from outside sources to the Parliamentary Committee. The Parliamentay Committee in turn will place its recommendations before the Parliament which will finally decide about them. I fail to understand how the romoval of distinction between rural and urban constituencies under the new Constitution, can go against the interests of rural people? Previously the urban constituencies used to extend over 20 to 50 miles. But now after the constituencies have been made contiguous units, if any body thinks that the urban people have been put to some disadvantage, it can be understood. But it is not in the interests of the country that we should continue the distinction of urban ahd rural constituencies. If facilities are provided to only urban people and not to the rural people, the State as a whole cannot flourish. Similarly, the State cannot make any progress, if facilities are provided only to the rural people. The State can be said to be progressing only if facilities are provided to all sections of the public. And then, under the new Constitution every adult has got the right of franchise. He can have his say in the administration of the country. The purpose of delimitation of constituencies is to enable every area to have representation in the Government.

My submission is that everyone should have an opportunity of being heard. It is the right of all citizens, irrespective of distinctions based on urban and rural residence, to have a say in the running of a democratic form of Government. In fact, there should be no consideration whether a person belongs to the urban area or to the rural area. All should be treated on an equal footing. One of the hon. Members has remarked that the Government does not spend liberally on backward areas and districts. I am unable to understand how he has arrived at such a conclusion. Had he given any instance to show that we don't spend on such and such areas, I would have understood it. Nobody can say that we make any distinctions districtwise while making allotments and schemes. In fact, we look to the needs on their merits and decide

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upon various schemes in the interest of the people of the State as a whole. Does the hon. Member want that all work in other districts should be stopped till the backward districts come to their level? It is not a sound policy. As a matter of fact the advanced districts should be allowed to continue advancing and the backward districts should be encouraged and helped so that they may come up to their level. The hon. Member has not been able to give any instance showing where the Government failed to be just towards the backward districts.

Another matter towards which the attention of the Government has been drawn is the scarcity of drinking water in Kangra and in Bhiwani Tehsil of Hissar district. These are the two places in our State where the problem of drinking water presents a difficult solution. It is not even possible to dig canals in these areas. Even then the Government has made a scheme in order to remove the difficulties of the people residing in these parts of the country. It has been estimated that such a scheme involves an expenditure of about five crores. In view of this the Government is trying to solve this problem by and by as the funds permit.

Sir, an objection has been raised against the big volume of New Expenditure of our State. For the information of the hon. Members I wish to state that the volume containing New Expenditure has in it two types of schemes. In the first place, there are schemes which are purely temporary in nature and on which expenditure is incurred only once. In the second place, there are certain schemes which continue year after year but which cannot be made permanent because some times it becomes necessary to discontinue expenditure on them. If we were to include all the items of New Expenditure in the Budget itself it would become impossible to retrench the staff when once it comes in the permanent list. So it is necessary that whenever a new scheme is undertaken it is first brought in the New Expenditure list and on the completion of the scheme the staff which is in excess of the needs is retrenched. All new projects are started in this way.

As regards private cars the Government has decided that it would not give such cars in future. Those officers who have such cars at present will be asked to put them in a common pool.

Another matter which requires our consideration is that of publicity. It has been stated that the Government should not waste public

money on publicity. My submission is that in all the progressive countries of the world the need for spending on publicity has been realized because it is the only means by which a Government can approach the public and explain its programmes and activities.

Sir, there are some hon. Members who like to bring in the names of such persons who cannot defend themselves on the floor of this House. Government should protect all persons and therefore I stated some days back that the convention of not attacking such persons here should be followed. I wish that the hon. Members will respect this convention.

Another thing which has been said, is that the Government of Punjab is spending large amounts on the displaced persons. It is argued that because it was the Central Government which agreed to the partitioning of the country, it should bear the burden for their rehabilitation. I am quite at one with the hon. Members that the Central Government should bear all such expenditure. But if the Central Government does not find it possible to do so, does it mean that the State Government should also stop helping them ?

While referring to the equality of status and opportunity provided for by the Constitution of India, it has been said that no such equality exists in our State. In fact the Constitution lays down the broad principles by which the future policy of the State is to be guided. We try to follow such principles as far as we can. But this does not mean that we should not move forward on the road of progress. Nobody can say that we do not follow the broad principles of the Constitution. Some one might say that we do not give the fundamental right of equality of opportunity to men in the matter of their appointment in girls schools and women hospitals. A day might come when such persons may approach the High Courts and say that the Governments are making distinction on the basis of sex in the matter of appointing only lady doctors in women hospitals. Such arguments are on their very face absurd. As long as we do not think on rational grounds we can not go into the spirit of the Constitution.

Then, Madam, objection has been taken by my hon. Friends to the grants-in-aid made to certain denominational institutions, for instance, run by Arya Smajists, Sanatinists, Sikhs etc. It is contended that making of these grants to such institutions tantamounts to giving an impetus to the flourishing of communalism in the State. I may

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tell the House that if these institutions are closed, it will prove disastrous to the people of the State. It goes without saying that the main burden of imparting higher education both in High Schools and Colleges is being shouldered by the denominational bodies. As you are aware, Madam, there are about sixty colleges which are affiliated to the Punjab University. Out of them six or seven belong to the Pepsu Government and nine or ten including professional Colleges are being run by the Punjab Government. The remaining Colleges are all manageed by denominational bodies. I think we should feel grateful to the private enterprise which is carrying on the work of dissemination of education on such a large scale in the State at its own cost. We should not feel unnecessarily apprehensive of these denominational institutions because the system of education prevalent in them is the same as in the Government institutions. The same books are taught there, which have been prescribed for the Government Colleges or Schools. In other words these denominational institutions carry on the same educational policy which the Government wants them to do. I am, therefore, of the opinion that there is no harm if the Government continues to subsidise these institutions by making grants-in-aid.

Besides this, it has been complained on the floor of the House that the hon. Minister too much interfere with administrative work. So far as this allegation is concerned, I may tell the House that it is not fair on the part of the hon. Members, who have said so. The fact of the matter is that when representations come from these very hon. Members that a certain matter should be decided in a certain manner and when they bring pressure to bear upon the hon. Ministers in that connection, then it becomes difficult for the latter not to respect the wishes of the former. If the latter resist the desires of the former, then it is complained that the Government pays no heed to the wishes of the popular leaders, and they make themselves busy with frantic preparations to bring a no-confidence motion against the Government. Under the circumstances. how does it lie in their mouth to charge the hon. Ministers with interference in the administrative work.

Then, Madam, it has been advocated by my hon. Friends that Government should remove the distinction between an agriculturist and a non-agriculturist. I have already stated in this connection in reply

to certain Assembly questions that a Committee has been formed to review the Land Alienation Act so that it may be replaced by a new Act. When that measure is brought on the Statute Book, the distinction between an agriculturist and a non-agriculturist will disappear. As a matter of fact, under the existing Land Alienation Act, the Government has declared all those castes and classes of people as agriculturists, who had even the remotest connection with land. I hope the new Bill will remove even the last vestige of distinction.

Then some hon. Members have criticised the action of the Government in not permitting the zamindars to excavate stones from any quarries found in the lands of the zamindars. I may point out that under the existing law on the subject, it has been provided that any quarry or mine found in the land of any person will be deemed to be the property of the Government, and the latter pays compensation to the owner of the land, which is thus rendered waste from cultivation point of view. Under the circumstances, the hon. Members would agree with me that it has not acted wrongly if it has refused to permit the zamindars to excavate the quarries found in their land.

Then, Madam, Government came in for criticism for its failure to put a ban on the export of milch cows. I may tell the House that in the case of inter-State Commerce and Trade, a State Government cannot place any restrictions. But so far as this particular case is concerned, the hon. Members would recollect that Government had issued an ordinance on the subject in consultation with the Government of India. But when the Government wanted to bring in a Bill banning the export of milch cows, majority of the hon. Members offered vehement opposition to it. Obviously we could not approach the Government of India for this purpose against the wishes of the hon. Members. So in this matter, no blame can be hurled at the door of the Government.

Now I would like to refer to the remarks made by an hon. Member regarding the advance of Communism in our State. I am glad that the hon. Lady Member has openly come in the field to propagate Communism. In the past whenever I would obliquely hint about her inclination towards this cult, she would challange me. Now it has become obvious and I think if she firmly believes in Communism, she should not be afraid of anybody and make propaganda openly in its favour. I know the object of the questions sent by her was to bring

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the Government into disrepute, while her leanings towards Communism became apparent. But I may tell her that this Government is strongly opposed to Communism and it is its bounden duty to stem its advance, if any, with an iron hand. Not only this. Even those who want to bring about Communsim will be severely dealt with. I repeat that Government will do everything in its power and use all its might to stop Communism taking roots in this country. I know what is happening in other countries where Communism has established itself.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of information, Madam. I may inform the hon. Chief Minister that he has completely misunderstood me. What I said was that Communism would come in the country if the Government failed to improve the economic condition of the masses.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly clarify the position in the case of Mian Narinder Singh ?

Chief Minister : I am sorry I cannot say anything on the subject, as the officer against whom allegations have been made, has no access to this House to defend himself. I am constrained to remark that the hon. Member has forgotten my appeal so soon that the House should conform to the convention of not making allegations on the floor of the House against officers who could not offer any defence here. Well, Madam, I was submitting that this Government is fully determined to combat the evil of Communism, if it came. I may assure the House that the present working of the Government can never lead to the spread of Communism in the State. Whatever provision, you may see in the Budget, you will find that it indicates an effective step towards defeating Communism.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That the Punjab Appropriation Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 AND 3

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Deputy Speaker: Question is :

That Schedule be the Schedule of the Bill.

The Assembly divided : Ayes 34, Noes 4.

AYES

Amar Nath, Vidyalankar, Shri.
Behari Lal, Chanana, Shri.
Beli Ram, Thakur.
Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri.
Bhagwan Dass, Shri.
Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar.
Durga Chand Kaushish, Shri.
Ganga Saran, Seth.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, The Honourable Dr.
Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar.
Gurbanta Singh, Master.
Ishar Singh Mujhail, The Honourable Sardar.
Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar.
Jiwan Lal, Pandit.
Kabul Singh, Sardar.
Kartar Singh, The Honourable Sardar.
Kedar Nath Saigal, Shri.
Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
Lahri Singh, Chaudhri.
Matu Ram, Chaudhri.
Mehr Chand, Chaudhri.
Narotam Singh, The Honourable Sardar.
Parkash Kaur, Shrimati Dr.
Piara Singh, Sardar.
Ranjit Singh, The Honourable Captain.
Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.
Shiv Singh, Sardar.
Sita Devi, Shrimati.
Sudarshan Seth.
Sundar Singh, Chaudhri.
Ujjal Singh, Sardar.
Virendra, Shri.
Waryam Singh, Sardar.

NOES

Bachan Singh, Sardar.
Ranbir Singh, Mehta.
Rattan Singh, Sardar.
Sajjan Singh, Sardar.

[CLAUSE 1]

Deputy Speaker : Question is.

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

[TITLE]

Deputy Speaker : Question is.

That Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried

Chief Minister : I move.

That the Punjab Appropriation Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p.m. on

Monday, 2nd April, 1951.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

DEBATES

2nd APRIL, 1951

Vol. III—No. 20.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

25/7/52

CONTENTS

Monday, 2nd April, 1951.

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Punjab Legislative Assembly

-hird Session of the First Punjab Legislative Assembly.

MONDAY, 2ND APRIL, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Simla at 2 p. m. of the clock

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ABSENCE OF THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER.

Secretary : I have to inform the House that the hon. Speaker is unavoidably absent. The Deputy Speaker will, therefore, take the Chair

(*Deputy Speaker, Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal, took the Chair.*)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DISPOSAL OF DAMAGED WHEAT BY THE GO ERNMENT IN AM ITSAR AND GURDASPUR DISTRICTS.

*2690. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the quantity of wheat damaged during the rains in September, 1950 in the godowns in Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts ;

(b) the manner in which the damaged wheat was disposed of by the Government ;

(c) the names of persons or firms who submitted tenders for the purchase of such damaged wheat t gether with their rates ;

(d) the tenderer to whom the whole lot of wheat was sold and at what rate ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.

	Mds. Srs Ch.
(a) Amritsar — — —	29,660-32-5
Gurdaspur — — —	8,084-12-9
Total — — —	59,325-4-14

(b) Damaged wheat which was unfit for human cosumption as well as cattle feed was sold to starch factories and the wheat which was unfit for human consumption but fit for cattle feed was auctioned.

(c) the question of inviting tenders for damaged wheat which was auctioned does not arise. Tenders or the sale of damaged wheat which was sold to starch factories were, however, received from the following parties —

Name of party.	Name of place where wheat was damaged.	Rate per maund.
1. M/s Bharat Starch and Chemicals Ltd. Abdullahpur.	Tarn Taran	Rs. 5/- book weight.
	Batala	Rs. 2/- book weight.
	Amritsar	Rs. 3/ book weight.
	Batala and Tarn Taran	Flat rate Rs. 4/- book weight.
2. M/s Krishna Flour and Oil Mills, Amritsar.	Tarn Taran	Rs. 6/- book weight.
	Batala.	Rs. 2/- book weight.
	Amritsar.	Rs. 6/- book weight
3. M/s. Sukhjit Singh Starch & Chemicals Ltd., Phagwara.	Tarn Taran.	Rs 4/- book weight less 10%.
4. M/s. S. N Industrial Corporation, Ltd., Senjeli (Bombay)	Batala.	Rs. 2/- actual weight without any reference to moisture.

(d) The whole lot of damaged wheat was not sold to a single party. As stated under (b) above damaged wheat which

was unfit for human consumption but fit for cattle feed was auctioned. It was delivered to several parties, who outbid others at different places. Rates also varied from place to place. The damaged wheat which was unfit for human consumption as well as for cattle feed was sold to the following parties :—

Name of Party.	Place.	Rate per maund.
1. M/S. Bharat Starch & Chemicals Ltd. Abduullahpur.	Tarn Taran. and Amritsar	Rs 5/- book weight
2. M/s. S. N. Industrial Corporation Ltd., Senjeli (Bombay).	Batala	Rs.2/- actual weight without any reference to moisture.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that tenders offering higher rates were also received by the Government ?

Minister : Yes, it is true.

Shrimati Sita Devi : If this is true, why did the Government not accept the highest tender which would have yielded more money ?

Minister : Firstly, the Government of India had fixed the ceiling rate of damaged wheat at five rupees per maund. Secondly, the firm which offered higher rate was already entrusted with the task of grinding wheat for the rationed areas and it was feared that if they were given the damaged wheat, they might mix it with the wheat intended for the consumption of the people. Thirdly, the firm had laid a condition with their tender, that they should be permitted to extract maida and fine atta from the damaged wheat. For these reasons that tender could not be accepted. Moreover, that tender was withdrawn.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : What steps have the Govenment taken to ensure that the firms to which the damaged wheat was sold would not mix it with the rationed wheat ?

Minister : These firms are not given the work of grinding wheat nor are they engaged in that trade

Sardar Sajjan Singh: What steps have the Government taken to prevent the resale of damaged wheat through black market?

Minister: If some such case is brought to the notice of the Government, it will take action.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS OF VILLAGE BHAURA, DISTRICT LUDHIANA.

*270 **Sardar Sajjan Singh:** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the villages lying within a radius of two miles of Ludhiana city have been declared suburban area for land allotment purposes under the quasi-permanent scheme; if so, the list of such villages;

(b) the distance of lands of village Bhaura from the municipal limits of Ludhiana;

(c) whether there is any evacuee area in the village referred to in part (b) above; if so, whether this village has been included in the list of suburban area for allotment of lands under the aforesaid scheme; if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) (i) what areas in the State have been fixed for allocation to the land-owning displaced persons of Chunian Tahsil of Lahore District;

(ii) whether any part of Ludhiana district has been declared as an allocation area for the displaced persons referred to in part (d) (i) above; if so, details thereof;

(e) (i) whether any persons referred to in part (d) (i) above have been allotted lands in the village referred to in part (b) above; if so, their list together with their full home addresses in Chunian Tehsil;

(ii) whether the persons referred to in part (e) (i) above were owning any immovable property in the district of Ludhiana before 15th August 1947; if so, the nature

of the property held by each of them and the place where it was situated;

(iii) whether any of these persons has been allotted land out of their allocation, if so, the reasons therefor;

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

(a) No. According to the quasi-permanent allotment of land Rules only those villages of which the boundary immediately adjoins the municipal boundary of a town are reckoned as suburban villages. The list of suburban villages of Ludhiana is placed on the Table† of the House.

(b) From nearly a mile to over two miles.

(c) (a) Yes.

(b) This village is not included in the list of Ludhiana City suburban villages as the boundary of this village does not touch the municipal limits of Ludhiana City.

(d) (i) (a) The area of allocation of colonists of Chunian Tehsil is their home district in East Punjab.

(b) Non-colonists of Chunian Tehsil are eligible for allotment of land in : Tehsil Patti of Amritsar District, Karnal, Pepsu (excluding Bhatinda), Ferozepore-Bhatinda (Sirsa area).

(ii) All colonists of Chunian Tehsil under (d) (i) whose home district is Ludhiana can receive land in Ludhiana district.

(e) (i) Yes The names with addresses in Chunian Tehsil are placed on the Table† of the House.

(ii) No, but immovable property was at one time held in Ludhiana City by their father and grand-father and is even at present held by their collaterals and blood-relations.

(iii) No. The land allotted to these persons is within their area of allocation.

† Kept in the Library

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When did the Government change the definition of the term 'colonist'? Formerly, only those could be regarded as colonists beloging to a certain district, who owned immovable property in that district.

Minister : I am thankful to the hon Member for the information supplied by him.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I wish to know as to when did the Government change this definition?

Minister : I shall be able to give the exact date on receipt of notice for that.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that only those areas are declared as suburban areas which adjoin the municipal limits of a town. Is he sure that the boundaries of village Bhaura adjoin the municipal limits of Ludhiana?

Minister : Yes, I am satisfied about it.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If by the production of revenue or municipal records, I prove that this village does not adjoin Ludhiana, will the Government be prepared to review their decision?

Minister : If that is proved, the Government will surely be willing to review the case.

ALLOTMENT OF VILLAGE GHARYALA, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

*2837. **Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether there is any banjar qadim and poor class of evacuee areas at village Gharyala, tehsil Patti, district Amritsar, if so, their total areas in acres respectively;

(b) whether the allotment of this village has been completed; if so, whether the areas referred to in part (a) above have been proportionately allotted to every allottee under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme; if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Sardar Barjirdar Singh, Revenue Assistant, Amritsar and other persons referred to in unstarred Assembly Question No. 6?9 put on 12th October 1950" were the temporary allottees of village Gharyala; if not, how they were allotted lands there under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme;

(d) (i) whether any temporary allottees of this village were ousted during the quasi-permanent scheme; if so, for what reasons together with their number and the area they were entitled to·

(ii) whether the persons referred to in part (d) (i) above were allotted lands temporarily without any applications; if so, under what provision of law this allotment was sanctioned together with the name of the authority which sanctioned the allotment?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.

(a) (i) Banjar Qadim and Banjar Jadid. 360 SA

(ii) Barani land. 148 SA

(b) (i) Yes.

(ii) No.

(iii) Proportions of cultivated and uncultivated area to be allotted to each person in this village were originally prepared incorrectly by the Patwaris. The mistake was, however, brought to light when the khasra number of the whole of the poor class of land had actually been allotted. It was not considered feasible to re-allot khasra number of the whole of the village at that late stage The service of both the Patwaris responsible for determining the proportions and for allottment of khasra numbers have since been dispensed with ;

(c) With the exception of persons at Nos. 1 and 8 mentioned in the Assembly Question No. 609 put on 12th October 1950 (copy enclosed) all others were the temporary allottees of the village. Numbers 1 and 8 were the occupancy tenants of other allottees of village Qila

Jiwan Singh, Tehsil Lahore and they were, therefore, allotted land along with their former owners

(d) (i) Yes, 370 temporary allottees were ousted during the quasi-permanent allottment scheme, as some of them were not eligible and the others could not be accommodated for want of parcha claims

(ii) They duly applied for temporary allottment.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND AT VILLAGE GHARYALA DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

609. **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of the displaced land-owners of village Qla Jiwan Singh, Tehsil Lahore who have been allotted land at village Gharyala, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, under the quasi-permanent scheme ;

(b) (i) the date when each one of them applied for the temporary allotment of land at village Gharyala referred to above ;

(ii) the date when the temporary allotment was sanctioned in each case ;

(iii) the total area allotted to each one of them temporarily ;

(iv) the total area actually cultivated by each of them after the temporary allotment ;

(c) whether any of them was assessed rent of the and temporarily allotted; if so, the total amount of rent paid by each of them upto 31st August 1950 ?

The hon Sardar Ishar Singh Majhail : Copy of memorandum No. RR/2454 dated 7th October 1950 from the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar to the Under Secretary (LR) to Government Punjab, Department of Rehabilitation, Jullundur.

Subject : *Assembly Question No 609 (unstarred) asked by S Bachan Singh M. L. A.*

Reference your memorandum No. 4601/R, dated the 29th September, 1950.

(2) The reply is given below :—

Serial No.	Question (a)	Question (b) (i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	Question (c)
1.	Shrimati Atma Devi widow of Kanshi Ram Brahman.	Nil	Not a temporary allottee.	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	S. Balwinder Singh son of S. Rajinder Singh.		29-3-49	22 acres	4 acres jointly	Rs. 12/14/-
3.	S. Jagjit Singh son of S. Rajinder Singh.		-do-	-do-		
4.	S. Jatinder Singh son of S. Dhian Singh		7/49	Not available.		
5.	Dhian Singh son of S. Fateh Singh	Not available	7/49		—	
6.	S. Saroop Singh son of S. Kehar Singh.		29-3-49	10 acres	3 acres jointly	Rs. 9/11/-
7.	S. Narinder Singh son of S. Kehar Singh.		29-3-49	10		
8.	S. Labh Singh son of Buta Ram Brahman.		Not a temporary allottee.	Nil	Nil	Nil

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In reply to question No. 60 in which I wanted to know the date on which those people applied for temporary allotment of land, I was told that the papers were not traceable. I want to know if temporary allotments of land are made to any persons without their applying for the same ?

Minister : I shall reply to this question at the time of replying to another question on this subject later on.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND AT VILLAGE BOOH DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

*2818. **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the total evacuee area of land at village Booh, tehsil Patti, district Amritsar, in standard acres ;

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

(b) (i) the number of the sitting allottees of this village and the area to which they were entitled under the quasi-permanent scheme ;

(ii) the area allotted to the allottees referred to in part (b) (i) above under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme ;

(iii) whether any of them were ousted from this village together with the area they were entitled to under the quasi-permanent scheme and the reasons for their being ousted ;

(c) (i) whether any of them were ordered to be brought back if so, their number together with the area they were entitled to ;

(ii) whether the orders of Director-General Rehabilitation referred to in part (c) (i) above were carried out ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(iii) whether it is proposed that all the disturbed sitting allottees will be allotted lands in this village in the course of reviews provided they had put in their review applications ;

(d) whether any groups of refugees from the villages of the Lahore tehsil were settled in this village under orders of the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation under the quasi-permanent scheme ; if so, their number and the area allotted to them ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) The total evacuee area of this village is 1313 standard acres and ½ unit.

(b) (i) There are 213 temporary allottees of this village. The collection of figures of their total net allottable area will not be commensurate with the labour and time involved.

(ii) An area of 582 st. acres and 5¼ units was allotted to 74 sitting allottees only.

(iii) 139 temporary sitting allottees could not be accommodated in this village because their parcha claims were not traceable at the time of allocation of this village. The collection of figures of their total net allotable area will not be commensurate with the labour and time involved.

(c) (i) No orders dated 8th May, 1950 by Director General Rehabilitation (Rural) for the restoration of any of these temporary allottees were received in Deputy Commissioner's office and the record of Director General Rehabilitation (Rural's) office also does not show the despatch of any such orders dated 8th May, 1950,

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) Efforts will be made to accommodate all the disturbed sitting allottees in this village in the course of review in accordance with the instructions on the subject provided they have put in review applications.

(d) Yes, a group of 29 allottees has been provided with 318 standard acres of evacuee land in this village.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether in the contest that is likely to ensue, the Government would prefer the sitting allottees or the persons who were temporarily allotted land in that village?

Minister : Decision would be taken on the merits of the cases.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The whole case is now before the Government. I want to know whether the original allottees or the sitting allottees would be preferred in the matter of allotment now.

Minister : Preference will be given to those who deserve it.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know if the Government recognises the right of a person whose parcha claim is once lost and then found ?

Minister : The allotment of a village cannot be withheld simply because of the loss of parcha claims of a person. That has got

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

to be completed. But if afterwards when the parcha claim is found, it is found that land has been allotted to some undeserving person, he is ousted and the land is allotted to the right person.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Supposing the parcha claim of a person 'A' is lost and then the land is allotted to somebody else, but afterwards the parcha claim of the previous person is found, will he be given preference over the person who has already been allotted land ?

Minister : I cannot reply on the basis of suppositions. Decision would be taken on the merits of the cases of the two persons.

Sardar Bachan Singh : It has been stated that 139 persons were ousted from that village because their parcha claims had been lost. May I know if this was the fault of the persons concerned or of the department ?

Minister : The responsibility for the loss of the parcha claims can be ascertained after enquiring whether it was lost in the head office or in the tehsil office. But I think the persons concerned are not to blame for the loss of their parcha claims

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether the persons whose parcha claims are lost are to blame for the loss or not ?

Minister : I have already replied to this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I know what is the attitude of the Government in the cases in which the Tehsildars, in order to allot the land of a village to their relatives, misplaced all the parcha claims pertaining to that village ?

Minister : If any case of this natures is brought to the notice of the Government, the decision thereon would be taken on its merits.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that the responsibility for the loss of parcha claims can be ascertained after enquiring whether it was lost in the head office or in the tehsil office. May I know why the person concerned should be penalized for the loss of his parcha-claim ?

Minister : There is no question of penalizing the person concerned because he has to be given the land in any case.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it in the knowledge of the hon. Minister that Sardar Harbans Singh, Naib Tehsildar misplaced the parcha-claims ofall the allottees of village Verka, in order to allot the whole of the land to his own father ?

Minister : This is not correct.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the Director General Rehabilitation, wrote to the Government that this Naib Tehsildar had deliberately misplaced the parcha claims of all the allottees of that village ?

Minister : There was no question of the loss of parcha claims in that case.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it not a fact that the Director-General, Rural Rehabilitation, Mr. Kandhawa, wrote to Mr. Thapar that Naib Tehsildar Harbans Singh had misplaced the claims of all the allottees of Verka in order to allot the land to his father ?

Minister : The Governmentn has not received any complaint regarding the loss of parcna claims against Sardar Harbans Singh.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN GARDEN COLONIES, IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

*2819. **Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether any landowners of the State have been allotted land in the Garden Colony area at Patti and other places in District Amritsar; if so, their number together with the total area allotted to them at each place ;

(b) whether any lands in exchange thereof have been taken from them ;

(c) whether any have been allotted any evacuee house at the places of garden colonies referred to in part (a) above ; if not, their number ;

(d) whether any houses have been taken over from them in exchange for the houses referred to in part (c) above ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

(e) whether any basic principles for the exchange of land and the houses of the persons referred to in part (a) above with the evacuee property have been framed, if so, a copy thereof may be laid on the Table?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) Yes. Khankot. Two with an area of 40 S. A. 9-1/ nits. Patti. Six with an area of 132 S. A. 3 Units.

(b) Yes. Possession has since been taken in respect of Patti while it is being taken over in respect of Khankot.

(c) They are not entitled to any houses.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The East Punjab allottees are required to surrender an equivalent area in lieu of the garden colony sites, allotted to them. They are, however, not entitled to the allotment of houses.

An extract is placed on the Table.

Extract from the Press Note, Dated 31st January 1948.

The Scheme is open both for local persons, refugees from West Punjab, preference being given to the refugees who possessed gardens in West Punjab. Every settler, who is allotted land in the garden colony, will have to surrender to Government an equivalent area of land of the same quality from his property. In the case of refugee, the area of land given in a garden colony would be deducted out of the land to which he would be entitled when he is given land vacated by muslims on a permanent basis. If the allottee is a local man, he will give up an area equivalent to the area given in the garden colony out of his personal property.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that houses have also been allotted to such persons at Patti and no houses have been taken from them in exchange ?

Minister : It is not in my knowledge.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know why no possession of land has no far been taken by the Government from those persons whose lands have been acquired on account of the fact that they have been allotted land in Garden Colonies ?

Minister : No such cases have come to our notice. The reason for delay in taking possession may be pressure of work.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Is land revenue charged from such persons ?

Minister : The question of land revenue does not arise.

Sardar Bachan Singh : There are areas in which the Government has allotted lands to certain persons in the Garden Colonies while they continue to hold their other lands. How can they have both the advantag s ?

Minister : They cannot enjoy both advantages and if there are some such cases they should be brought to the Government's notice for consideration.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the Government take any action against those officers who have committed such irregularties ?

Minister : If such irregularities are proved Government will certainly take action.

Sardar Bachan Singh : No other land has been given to those displaced persons who have been given lands in the Garden Colonies ; why is it that the local inhabitants continue to enjoy both the advantages.

Minister : Reply can be found in the extract.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN SUBURBAN AREAS OF THE STATE.

*2820. **Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) whether displaced landowners who owned land in Pakistan in rural areas are being allotted land in

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

suburban area in the Punjab State evacuee area ; if so, under what provision of law ;

(ii) the copy of the same be laid on the table ;

(iii) the date of issue of such orders :

(b) (i) whether a displaced landowner who was owning land in rural area in Pakistan will be considered for allotment of land in a suburban area on the ground that he holds a gallantary award ; if so, under what rules ;

(ii) the copy of the rules referred to in part (b) (i) above be laid on the Table ;

(iii) the date of issue of these rules ;

(c) whether a displaced political sufferer is given the same concessions which are allowed to the gallantary award holders and the soldiers fighting on Kashmir front in the allotment of lands ;

(d) (i) whether the displaced soldiers fighting on the Kashmir front are considered for allotment of land in the suburban area in lieu of the area they were holding in the rural sections of Pakistain ; if so, under what rules ;

(ii) the copy of the rules be laid on the table ?

The Hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) (i) According to the departmental instructions suburban area is to be allotted to a suburban claimant. After meeting the demands of the suburban claimants, the balance of the area in the suburban villages is to be allotted to claimants of rural area after imposition of a fixed premium in accordance with departmental instructions contained in (R-45).

(ii) A copy of the instructions is placed on the Table.

(iii) 29th July 1949.

(b) (i) Yes, under instruction R-45 referred to in (a) (i) above.

(ii) A copy of the instructions is placed on the Table.

(iii) 29th July 1949.

(c) No.

(d) (i) Each case is considered on its merits.

(ii) In view of (a) above, it does not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The list contains two names-General Tara Singh and Brigadier Manak Shah. May I know the rules according to which allotment has been made to them ?

Minister: I am sorry the hon. Member is not asking a supplementary on this question.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN VILLAGE GUMTALA DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

*2821. **Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the allotment of village Gumtala, tehsil and district Amritsar has been completed ;

(b) the list of persons to whom the lands have been allotted in this village under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme till now with the following particulars :—

(i) names of the allottees ;

(ii) area of land allotted to each of them ;

(iii) whether they were owning lands in suburban or rural areas in Pakistan ;

(iv) the reasons for allotting them lands in this suburban village ;

(v) the date when the allotment in each case was sanctioned ;

(c) whether any persons who were allotted lands in this village under the quasi-permanent scheme have been

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

again disturbed ; if so, their list together with the following particulars ;

(1) their names ;

(2) the area allotted to each of them ;

(3) the date of allotment ;

(4) the date of cancellation ;

(5) the reasons of cancellation in each case ;

(6) whether they were holding land in urban, suburban or rural areas in Pakistan ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) No.

(b) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) } List 'A' is placed on the Table.†

(c) Allotment of only one man was subsequently cancelled because he was not found to be entitled to the allotment made in his favour.

(1) S. Sukhdev Singh.

(2) Only 14 units.

(3) 30th March 1950

(4) 9th October 1950.

(5) It was found that he was not entitled to any suburban area.

(6) Urban.

†Kept in the Library.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the rule according to which land has been awarded to persons, belonging to the rural areas in Pakistan, in the suburban area here ?

Minister : I have already replied to that question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : How is it that land has been allotted to persons, serving in Kashmir without any regard being paid to the rules ?

Minister : I don't wish to add to my previous reply.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: Is there any rule according to which land can be allotted to such persons, as a gallantary award, in suburban areas ?

Minister : There is no special rule for such persons.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If there is no such rule, is the Government prepared to cancel such allotments ?

Minister : I have only said there is no 'special' rule for them.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know what other rules exist for giving them this concession ?

Minister : I am sorry the hon. Member does not understand the difference between 'gallantry awards' and 'defence services'.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Can the hon. Minister explain the difference?

Minister : This is not the place to do so

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I received a letter from the Department of Rehabilitation. It runs as follows :

> Please refer to your letter No.1217 dated 1st September 1950 to the late Dr. Lehna Singh H. M. R. R. regarding allotment at village Gumtala, Tehsil Amritsar.
>
> The case of allotment of land to Major General Tara Singh and Brigadier Manak Shah in the suburban area of village Gumtala was placed before the Emergency Committee of the Cabinet sometime ago and it was decided that these two persons who had distinguished service in the Army to their credit be allowed to receive allotment there. In this respect this is not a solitary instance Quite a number of persons who were entitled to gallantary awards have been given allotments in the suburban area of Ferozepur where considerable surplus area is available.

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether the decision of the Cabinet, referred to in the letter which I have quoted just now, was taken in accordance with a certain rule or law ?

Minister : I may tell the hon. Member that the decision of the Cabinet on a certain matter carries in itself the force of law. So no question of any rule or law arises.

ALLOTTMENT OF LAND IN VILLAGE POHUWIND, TEHSIL PATTI.

***2822. Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the allotment of village Pohuwind, tehsil Patti, has been completed ; if so, the list of the allottees together with the following particulars :—

(1) the total evacuee area in the village ;

(2) the names of the allottees ;

(3) the area of land to which each of them was entitled ;

(4) the area allotted to each one of them ;

(5) the place where they have been allotted their surplus, if any ;

(6) whether the allottee owned any land in the place referred to in part (a) (5) above ;

(7) whether they were local colonists ; if so, the land each one of them owned in this village ;

(8) whether any of them was a sitting allottee ;

(b) (i) whether any sitting allottees who were also local colonists were ousted from this village during the quasi-permanent allotment scheme ; if so, the reasons therefor in each case ;

(ii) the area of land each one of them was owning in his own village ;

(c) whether any of the persons referred to in part (b) (i) above made representation to the Financial Commissioner, Rehabilitation and the Director General Rehabilitation, about his case ; if so, the decision arrived at by Government in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) Yes. A list is placed on the Table.†

(1) 80 standard acres and 6 units.

(2) A list is placed on the Table.†

(3) A list is placed on the Table.†

(4) A list is placed on the Table.†

(5) A list is placed on the Table.†

(6) Yes. S. Gurbux Singh mentioned at S. No. 1 of the list placed on the Table owned 17 acres in village Virum only but he possessed no property in village Narla. Information relating to Ferozepur District is not available.

(7) All the allottees are local colonists and held the following land in this village.

(i) S. Gurbux Singh.	147 acres.
(ii) S Balwant Singh.	5 acres.
(iii) S. Thakar Singh.	5 acres.
(iv) S. Sadhu Singh.	5 acres.

(8) Yes. S. Thakar Singh and S. Sadhu Singh are sitting allottees. S. Balwant Singh is their real brother, while S. Gurbux Singh was co-sharer in the evacuee land.

(b) (i) Yes. The following local colonists and sitting allottees were ousted from this village during the quasi-permanent allotment scheme in order to accommodate S. Gurbux Singh, a bigger allottee,

†Kept in the Library

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

because he had a joint Khata with the Muslims who had since migrated to Pakistan and as such had preference over others :

S. Mangal Singh.

S. Lachhman Singh.

S. Lehna Singh.

(ii)	S. Mangal Singh.	5 acres.
	S. Lachhman Singh.	5 acres.
	S. Lehna Singh.	Nil.

(c) Unless full particulars of the representation are specified, it is not possible to locate if any representation had at all been made either to the Financial Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation or Director General, Rehabilitation (Rural). The case will be decided by Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, in review.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister be prepared to take action against the officer of the department, who has given wrong information that the representation is not forthcoming, because I can produce acknowledgment receipts indicating that the representation was received by the Department ?

Minister : I have not denied the receipt of the representation concerned. What I have said is that "unless full particulars of the representation are specified, it is not possible to locate it." If this is done, then Government will see its way to take action in the matter.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Since it can be proved that the file on the subject contains the represenation concerned, may I know what action does the hon Minister propose to take against the official responsible for providing this reply without studying the file ?

Minister : I may assure the hon. Member that I would not have given this reply if the representation concerned could have been located. Then the reply would have been different.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether any clear instruction exists to decide the case in favour of a bigger allottee

where smaller allottees in that land are also interested? If not, what action does the Government propose to take with a view to administering justice to the smaller allottees?

Minister : No injustice was done to the smaller allottees, as the bigger allottee had a joint khata with the Muslims who had since migrated to Pakistan and as such had preference over others in the allotment of that evacuee land.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether in the opinion of the Government a smaller allottee will have preference over a bigger allottee, with joint khata in the evacuee land, or the latter over the former?

Minister: An allottee with a joint khata in an evacuee land will have preference over others.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : May I know whether it is the declared policy of the Government that any refugee allottee who has any interest or joint khata in a Muslim evacuee land, will be given preference over other allottees in the matter of allotment of that land?

Minister : If he holds a joint khata in that evacuee land, he will certainly be given preference over others.

Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa : May I know whether an owner of a land, who had Muslim occupancy tenants, will be given preference in getting that land over other allottees?

Minister : On the face of it, he should receive preference, but I require notice for providing accurate information on the point.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether Government has framed any rule that a bigger allottee with a joint khata should be given preference over smaller allottees? If so, will he kindly read out that rule?

Minister: I assure the hon. Member that this allotment of land was made to the bigger allottee with a joint khata according to rules. I am sorry I have not got that rule in my possession at present, otherwise I would have read it out to him.

———

ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN VILLAGE SAHARI HARDO.

*2825. **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the grade in which village Sahari Hardo of tehsil Kasur, district Lahore has been placed by the Government for rehabilitation purposes ;

(b) (i) the total area of each kind of land in this village in the Autar and the Hithar sections respectively ;

(ii) the total land revenue assessed in each of the sections referred to above ;

(iii) the valuation of land in each of the sections referred to above for gradation and allotment purposes respectively ;

(c) whether Autar area of this village can be put in grade I according to the valuation of the lands ;

(d) (i) whether S. Sajjan Singh, M. L. A. forwarded a representation by 237 heads of the land owning families of this village vide his letter no. 1181 dated 26th August 1950 (Registered) which was received by the Hon. Minister for Rehablitation on 28th August 1950 vide postal acknowledgement.

(ii) whether in this representation the owners of the village expressed their willingness to forsake their rights in their lands in the Hathar Section provided their village was treated as 1st Grade village for allotment purposes ; if so, the decision, if any, arrived at by the Government in the matter ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) Village Hardo Sahari in tehsil Kasur, district Lahore, has been placed in grade II.

(b) (i) Annexure I shows details of the area of each kind of soil in this village in its Majha and Hithar portions.

(ii) Rs 7,568/3/- have been assessed as land revenue on Majha portion and Rs. 1,327/13/-on Hithar portion respectively.

(iii) Single valuation rates of various kinds of soil applicable to both the sections of the village are :—

Chahi	—	-/12/-
Chahi nehri	—	-/13/-
Nehri non-perennial	—	-/9/-
Nehri perennial	—	1/1/-
Barani	—	-/5/-
Sailab	—	-/8/-

(c) In such large scale operations gradation was possible on whole village basis and not according to any sub-divisions of villages or according to individual assamis The whole of the Bet Bangar assessment circle in which this village is situated, has been placed in grade II. According to the standing instructions, a section of the village cannot be put in grade I.

(d) (i) Yes.

(ii) No change can be made in the grade of a section of this village on the grounds given in the representation.

CLAIM FOR ALLOTMENT OF LAND OF DISPLACED LANDOWNERS FROM BAHAWALPUR STATE.

*2832. **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether instructions were issued by the Director General Rehabilitation to the District Resettlement Officers on 8th August 1948 or 8th August 1949 to the effect that displaced land-owners from Bahawalpur State and from areas declared B Grade for allotment purposes were entitled to allotment of land in their own villages even if lands there were of A Grade; if so, the copy of these instructions be laid on the Table ;

(b) whether these instructions were acted upon in any villages of Tarn Taran Tehsil ; if so, the list of such villages ;

(c) (i) whether any local colonists sitting allottees of village Palasaur, tehsil Tarn Taran who were holding lands in B Grade villages were allotted lands in their own villages according to these instructions; if so, their number and the area they were allotted ;

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

(ii) whether some of the local colonists sitting allottees of B Grade villages were ousted from this village during the quasi-permanent allotment scheme; if so, their number and the area they were entitled to;

(iii) the reasons for their being ousted in each case;

(d) whether allotment orders of any of the persons referred to in part (c) (i) above have been cancelled recently; if so, their number and the reasons therefor in each case;

(e) (i) the total evacuee area in the village referred to in part (c) (i) above which has been declared suburban and rural for allotment purposes respectively;

(ii) whether any area has been allotted to displaced land owners who were holding lands in suburban localities of Pakistan; their number and the total area allotted to them and the names of the localities in Pakistan where they were owning their lands;

(iii) whether any area has been allotted to displaced land owners in suburban section who were owning land in A Grade villages; if so, their number and the total area allotted to them;

(iv) whether any A Grade sitting allottees were ousted from this village during the quasi-permanent allotment; if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) (i) whether any displaced persons from villages in the Lahore Tehsil have been allotted lands in this village though it was not their area of allocation; if so, their number and the area allotted to them;

(ii) the reasons for this allotment?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

(a) Yes, on 17th August 1949. A copy of the instructions, Annexure "A", is placed on the †Table. (These instructions, however, do not apply to I Grade sub-urban villages in which suburban claimants have prior claim over all others.)

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†Kept in the Library.

(b) Yes, in village Palasaur and Kadgil, Tehsil Tarn Taran, District Amritsar.

(c) (i) Yes. Eighteen persons were allotted 222 S. A. and 15¾ units.

(ii) 17 local colonists sitting allottees of 'B' Grade villages were ousted from this village during the quasi-permanent allotment scheme.

(iii) They had obtained double allotment in Hissar District and had gone there according to their own choice.

(d) Yes. Allotments of nine persons with an area of 89 S. A. 14¾ units who were B Grade land owners of other villages were cancelled.

(e) (i) The entire evacuee area of the village is 1510 S. A. Of this 413 S. A 12 Units has been declared as "Suburban" and 109 S. A. 4 Units as "Non-suburban".

(ii) Yes. Twenty-one persons who were owning land in Pakistan have been allotted 440 S. A. 3 units vide Annexure "B" placed on the Table.†

(iii) Yes. 150 persons with an area of 1295 S. A. and 6½ units.

(iv) Yes. Because of their being either bigger allottees or for holding temporary allotment in Hissar District.

(f) (i Yes. Two persons with an area of 8 S. A. 9¾ units.

(ii) One of them being a local colonist and sitting allottee while the other being colonist of Tarn Taran proper and sitting allottee of this village.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In view of the instructions contained in part 2 of the Annexure "A" to the effect that similar concessions will be extended to colonists in grade II may I know as to why the local colonists of the villages Palasaur and Kadgil Tehsil Tarn Taran were ousted during the quasi-permenant allotment scheme ?

Minister : They were not ousted but they went according to their own choice. Their previous allotments have been cancelled.

†Kept in the Library.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: May I know if the allotments of those colonists have also been cancelled who did not go there according to their own choice. Is the Government going to consider the cases of those who have not gone there of their own accord ?

Minister: Government is prepared to consider their cases subject to the condition that they have not so far made their choice.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND AT VILLAGE GHARYALA, DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

*2837 **Sardar Bachan Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to State :—

(a) whether S. Sajjan Singh M. L. A. submitted a complaint to him vide his letter No. 1284 dated 10-9-1950 (Registered) which was received in the office of the hon Minister for Rehabilitation on or about 12-9-1950:—

(b) whether in this complaint, S. Sajjan Singh M L. A. levelled charges against a responsible Rehabilitation Officer of having broken "radeef" of the khasra number, of village Gharyala, District Amritsar while alloting land to himself and his family members under the quasi-permanent scheme;

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative whether any enquiry was made; if so, the result thereof ?

The hon Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) On enquiry the allotments have been found to have been made in accordance with the standing instructions. However, these allotments are subject to the decisions on applications for review.

EVACUEE HOUSES IN RURAL AREAS.

*2940. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the numbers separately of houses of the landless evacuees and the landowner evacuees in the rural areas of the

districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur district-wise;

(b) the number of the allottees of the land and number of the landless refugees in the villages in the above mentioned, district-wise,

(c) the number of the landless refugees to whom no house or open plot has been allotted district-wise in each of the districts referred to above?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.

(a), (b) & (c) The required information is given in the statement which is placed on the Table.†

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: Is it the intention of the Government to allot the houses of landless Muslim evacuees, which are at present occupied by the landholders, to those landless displaced persons who are without any shelter?

Minister: Yes.

Master Gurbanta Singh: In view of the reply of the hon. Minister in the affirmative, may I know how these houses would be allotted to landless displaced persons particularly the Harijans?

Minister: Houses would be allotted to them if and when Government will come to know that they have not been allotted any houses so far or in other words if they are without any shelter.

Master Gurbanta Singh: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that they have already informed the Deputy Commissioners that they have not been allotted any houses so far. Has the Government devised any other way to allot houses to them?

Minister: I cannot say whether or not they have informed the Deputy Commissioners about their not having been allotted any houses. Again I cannot say whether they informed the Deputy Commissioners verbally or in writing. However, if the hon. Member brings any such cases to my notice, I shall certainly consider them.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang: Is it the intention of the Government to oust those Harijans who have forcibly occupied the houses of zamindars?

†Kept in the Library

Minister: Government will surely oust those who are not entitled to such houses

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: Is the Government aware of the fact, that so long as the landless displaced persons are not allotted houses they are not given any grants what oever, if so, is it a fact that many Harijans of District Gurdaspur who have not been allotted houses, have not been given any grants by the Government?

Deputy Speaker: This question does not arise out of the answer given by the Government.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: May I know whether the landless displaced persons who have not been allotted any houses are given any grants?

Minister: The question of the allotment of houses has nothing to do with the question relating to the grants.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: Is it a fact that grants are not made to those displaced persons who have not been allotted any houses?

Minister: I cannot say that.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the landless displaced persons of village Gadhla' whom houses have not been allotted have not been given any grants?

Minister: I cannot say that off-hand.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is it the policy of the Government to allot the houses of landless evacuees in the villages to the displaced zamindars or landless displaced persons?

Minister: It is the policy of the Government to allot evacuee houses to landless displaced persons.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that in spite of the policy of the Government as referred to by him, thousands of landless displaced Harijans have not been allotted evacuee houses in the rural areas of the districts of Jullundur, Ludhiana and Gurdaspur?

Minister: I have no knowledge about it.

Shrimati Sita Devi: In view of the reply of the hon. Minister that he would be prepared to consider the cases of those landless displaced Harijans who have not been allotted any houses, is it the intention of the hon. Minister that those Harijans whose applications have not been favourably considered by the Deputy Commissioners should institute appeals to him for favourable consideration ?

Minister: If they have not been allotted any houses even after submitting applications to the Deputy Commissioners then there must have been some reasons behind it.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Is the hon. Minister prepared to hear the appeals of those landless displaced persons whose cases are quite genuine and who have not still been allotted houses by the Deputy Commissioners in spite of their oft-repeated requests both verbally and in writing ?

Minister: I have already stated that there must have been some rerasons for which the Deputy Commissioners may not have considered their cases favourably.

ALLOTMENT OF EVACUEE HOUSES.

*2441. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh**: Will the hon Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of evacuee houses belonging to landless owners in villages of Gadaryan, Rampur, Nabipur, in tehsil Gurdaspur and Taragarh and Daulatpur in tehsil Pathankot separately;

(b) the number of the landless refugees and allottees of land in each of the villages mentioned in part (a) above separately together with the respective number of those who have not so far been given possession of any houses;

(c) whether it is a fact that the allottees of land have taken possession of the landless evacuee houses in the aforesaid villages while the landless refugees in these villages have not been given their possession ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

(a) A list giving the necessary information is placed on the Table.†

†Kept in the Library.

[Minister for Rehabilitation]

(b) The information is given in the list mentioned at above.

(c) No.

AMOUNT OF MONEY DISTRIBUTED AS LOANS AND GRANTS.

*2942. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the total amount of money distributed amongst the refugees settled in the rural and urban areas of the State district-wise from 1st April, 1950, to 1st March, 1951, as loans and grants;

(b) the amount of money distributed amongst the members of the scheduled castes district-wise out of the whole sum distributed as loans and grants to the refugees as mentioned in part (a) above ?

The hon Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) (i) *Rural Loans.* A sum of Rs. 88,43,923 has been distributed from 1st April 1950, to 15th February 1951, as rural loans and grants to allottees who had been given quasi permanent allotment of land. District-wise figures are given in column 3 of the annexure† Figures up to the 1st March 1951, are not available hence the figures upto 15th February 1951 are given.

(ii) *Urban Loans.* A sum of Rs: 13,52,392 has been sanctioned as urban loans under the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) Act 1948. A district-wise statement showing the total amounts sanctioned to displaced persons and to been scheduled castes is attached†. As for urban grants no amount has been sanctioned as no provision for the same exists during the current financial year.

(b) (i) *Rural Loans.* A sum of Rs. 1,41,593 out of the amount of Rs. 88,43,923 was given to Harijans who had received quasi-permanent allotment of land. District-wise figures are given in column 4 of the attached statement.

†Kept in the Library.

(ii) *Urban Loans.* A sum of Rs. 23,350 out of the total amount of Rs. 13,52,392 was sanctioned to the scheduled castes District-wise figures are given in column 6 of the statement attached.†

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that out of the sum of Rs. 13,52,392, sanctioned as urban loans, the sum of Rs. 23,350 only was sanctioned to scheduled castes. May I know what is the percentage of Harijans among the refugees ?

Minister : I require notice to answer this question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the reason for giving 1.6 par cent loans to the Harijans when their number is very large ?

Minister : Grants or loans are advanced to deserving persons and not in accordance with any ratio. I can't say that the ratio as given by the hon. Member is right or wrong.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The Government has sanctioned the sum of Rs. 88 lakhs for rural areas. Is the Government aware of the fact that this loan is ordinarily not given unless 10 per cent of it is given to the Naib Tehsildar, Qanungo or Patwari ?

Minister : If the hon. Member can say this with his personal experience then I can make enquiry, other-wise it is wrong.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the reasons why a meagre sum has been sanctioned for Harijans ? Is it because of the fact that they are not deserving or otherwise infiuential ?

Minister : This loan has been given according to the area of land allotted to them. Considered from this point of view I think the loan is not meagre.

ALLOTMENT OF HOUSES IN DISTRICT GURDASPUR.

*2950. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state:-

(a) the number of landless refugees ejected from their houses in the villages of District Gurdaspur from Ist October, 1950 up to this time;

(b) the number of such persons who have not been given any alternative shelter;

†Kept in the Library.

(c) the number of landless evacuee houses that have been allotted to the landowner refugees in the villages of District Gurdaspur?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail.

(a) 493.

(b) Nil.

(c) 195.

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : The hon. Minister had stated in reply to a question that it is the policy of the Government to allot landless evacuee houses to landless refugees. Is the Government aware that about 400 such refugees were ejected from the houses occupied by them; if so, the reasons therefor?

Minister : The question does not arise out of the original question. There is no landless refugee who has been ejected from any landless evacuee house.

TACCAVI LOANS GIVEN BY GOVERNMENT.

***2981. Master Gurbanta Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the amount of taccavi and grants given by Government in Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Ludhiana and Forozepur districts since April, 1950;

(b) The amount of taccavi and grants given to Harijans in each district out of the sum mentioned in part (a) above?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) The following amounts have been advanced as taccavi loans and grants in the rural areas of the following six districts from 1st April 1950 to 15th February 1951:—

Sl. No.	Name of District.	Sum advanced as loans & grants district-wise.
		Rs.
1.	Jullundur.	15,37,351
2.	Ludhiana.	5,22,217
3.	Hoshiarpur.	5,97,945
4.	Ferozepore.	23,44,812
5.	Amritsar.	14,04,788
6.	Gurdaspur.	5,17,367
	Total :	69,24,480

No urban grants were disbursed after 1st April 1950.

(b) Out of the sum of Rs. 69,24,480, the following amounts were given to Harijans as taccavi loans and grants in each of these six districts :—

		Rs.
1.	Jullundur.	55,775
2.	Ludhiana.	29,795
3.	Hoshiarpur.	Nil.
4.	Ferozepore.	18,654
5.	Amritsar.	12,355
6.	Gurdaspur.	1,100
	Total :	1,17,679

Chaudhri Sundar Singh : May I know the reasons for giving only Rs. 1100/- to Harijans by way of taccavi and grants ?

Minister : I regret that I cannot give a reply to this question.

ALLOTMENT OF HOUSES TO HARIJAN REFUGEES IN THE RURAL AREAS OF JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

*2983. **Master Gurbanta Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of houses so far allotted to Harijan refugees in the rural areas of Jullundur District ;

(b) the number of houses from which Harijan refugees have been ejected ;

(c) the number of houses previously occupied by Harijan refugees, which have now been allotted to others ;

(d) the number of Harijan families occupying Muslim evacuee houses in rural areas who have not been allotted these houses so far ;

(e) the number of houses belonging to Muslim 'Kamins' from which Harijans have either been ejected or are going to be ejected ?

The hon Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail:

(a) 5330.
(b) 436.
(c) 519.
(d) NIL.
(e) 27.

Master Gurbanta Singh: May I know whether the houses from which the Harijans have been ejected will be re-allotted to them ?

Minister: I have already replied to this question.

GROW MORE FOOD STAFF EMPLOYED IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

*2626. **Chaudhri Badlu Ram**: Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number and details of the staff appointed in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign in the Rohtak district ;

(b) the salary drawn by each member of the staff ;

(c) the amount of work done by the staff during the year 1950-51 ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand:

The reply is laid on the Table.

(a) & (b) The number and datails of the staff appointed in connection with the 'Grow More Food' campaign are given below :—

Sr. No.	Designation.	Pay including allowances P.m.
1.	Naib Tahsildar Grow More Food Rohtak	252/8/-
2.	-do- -do- Gohana	247/8/-
3.	-do- -do- Jhajjar	262/8/-
4.	-do -do- Sonepat	242/8/-
5.	Grow More Food Assistant Rohtak	135/-/-
6.	Moharrir to Naib Tahsildar Grow More Food Rohtak	100/-/-
7.	-do- -do- -do- Gohana	100/-/-
8.	-do- -do- -do- Jhajjar	94/-/-
9.	-do- -do- -do- Sonepat	100/-/-
10.	4 peons i. e. one peon attached to each Naib Tehsildar, Grow More Food in each Tehsil	196/-/-

Salary drawn by the above staff including other travelling allowances from 1st April 1950 to 31st January 1951 Rs. 18,866/-

Two drivers, one attached to jeep No. 681) & the other to No. 688 at Rs. 95/- p. m. each) Rs. 190/-

Salary drawn from 1st April 1950 to 31st January 1951 Rs. 1900/-

STAFF FOR DOMESTICATION OF WILD CATTLE.

One Campaign Organiser at Rs. 400/- p. m.

One Overseer at Rs. 200/- p. m.

One veterinary Asstt.

Surgeon at Rs. 150/- p. m.

One Accountant-cum-typist at Rs. 85/- p. m.

Seven cattle catchers at Rs. 75/- p. m. each.

One peon at Rs. 20/- p. m.

Salary including other allowances & other T. A. drawn by the above staff from 1st April 195 to 31st January 1951 Rs.363./15/:

(c) The amount of work done by the staff during the year 1950-51.

SPECIAL LEGISLATIONS.

1. Well Sinking Scheme.

Number of wells allotted in 1948-49, 49-50 & 50-51 is as under :—

	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	Total
Number of wells allotted	164	178	140	482
Number of wells completed	161	111	40	312
Under construction	3	67	100	170

2 Seed & Seedling Act.

16 villages have been notified under this Act and an area of about 5806 acres has been put under pure wheat C 591 in all these villages.

3. Conservation of Manure Act.

Whole of the district has been notified under this Act and the work of digging modern manure pits is being carried out on cent per cent basis. Up till now 3,54,236 pits have been duly dug and 35,436 pits have been repaired.

4. Insect pests and Diseases and Obnoxious Weeds Act.

(a) The work of pohli eradication was taken in hand and an area of 39,503 acres of land has been cleared of this weed in this district.

(b) *Domestication of wild cows.*

246 wild cows were captured and disposed of by the Cattle Campaign Organizer after domestication.

5. *Utilization and Reclamation of waste land*

17,388 acres of culturable waste land were reclaimed & brought under cultivation.

6. *Plantation of trees.*

1,16,281 trees were planted in connection with the celebration of Van Mahautsav.

[Minister for Education]

7. *Model Farms.*

A target to convert 10 per cent of the total villages of the district into model farms has been fixed and upto this time 35 model farms have been completed and the rest will be done so after the harvesting of the present crop.

BRAYNE MEO HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT GURGAON.

***2824. Sardar Bachan Singh**: Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the teachers of Brayne Meo High School, Nuh Distirict Gurgaon struck work during the last quarter of 1950 ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(b) (i) whether this strike still continues or has been called off ; if so, when ;

(ii) whether any information about the contemplated strike was received by the district authorities of Gurgaon or the Government ; if so, the date thereof ;

(c) (i) whether any reports about the financial affairs of the school was received by him from S. Sajjan Singh Margindpuri, M. L. A., *vide* his letters No. 896 dated, 2nd July 1950 (Registered) and No. 1565, dated 30th October 1950 (Registered) ; if so, the copies of the letters be laid on the table ;

(ii) wherher any enquiry was made by the Government in view of the facts contained in these letters ; if so, with what result ;

(iii) the action, if any, so far taken by the Government in the matter ;

(d) (i) whether any grant-in-aid was awarded to this school by the Government during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st August 1950 ; if so, the amount thereof ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(ii) whether the managing committee of the school was allowed to operate upon the banking accounts of the school with the co-operative Bank, Gurgaon before 31st January 1951 ; if so, when ;

(iii) the extent to which this committee was allowed to withdraw the money from the said bank ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) the total amount given by the Government as grant-in-aid to each of the aided High Schools in the Ambala Division between 15th August 1947 and 31st July 1951 ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand :

(a) The teachers of the Brayne Meo High School, Nuh struck work from 5th December 1950 to 19th December 1950, as they were not paid their salaries for the last 14 months.

(b) (i) The strike was called off on 20th December 1950.

(ii) Yes. A notice was sent to the Deputy Commissioner Gurgaon, on 9th September 1950.

(c) (i) The said letters do not appear to have been received. Letter No 897, dated 2nd July 1950 from S. Sajjan Singh, M. L. A. was, however, received last year, a copy of which is laid on the Table.†

(ii) S. Sajjan Singh, M. L. A., was apprised of the position that the Inspector of Schools, Ambala, had been directed to contact the Deputy Commissioner, Gurgeon, with a view to having the Managing Committee reconstituted so that the grant of the school may be released.

(iii) The Managing Committee of the School has since been approved by the Government.

(d) (i) No grant was sanctioned to the school during the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st August 1950, as the Managing Committee of the School had not been reconstituted and approved by the Government

(ii) No.

(iii) As owing to partition, the amount at the credit of the school in the Co-operative Bank Gurgaon was shown as payable to Punjab (Pakistan) in the tentative balance sheet the Committee could not withdraw any amount of that even if permitted to operate the account.

(e) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table.†

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know why the Managing Committee of the school was not reconstituted and approved by the Government and also reasons for not sanctioning the grant ?

Minister :- The grant could not be sanctioned. The Government has sanctioned the sum of Rs. 3,000 now to the school.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : When the Government was apprised of the fact that the financial position of the school was not satisfactory and that the teachers of the school went on strike, may I know what steps the Government took to stop this crisis ?

†Kept in the Library

Minister: The Government took the necessary steps according to the Rules. The fact of the matter is that this amount has to be paid by the Pakistan Government and as soon as the amount is received it will be paid to the school.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In case no reply is received from the Pakistan Government, may I know if the Government will be prepared to sanction the grant for the previous years ?

Minister : The grant will be sanctioned according to the Rules.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : If no reply is receive from the Pakistan Government and even no grant is sanctioned by our Government then may I know how this school will be able to function ?

Minister : Negotiations are in progress on dominion level and unless decision is taken, the amount lying at the credit of the school in the Cooperative Bank, Gurgaon cannot be paid.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know the reasonsfor which the Managing Committee could not be reconstituted and approved by the Government within four years ?

Minister : I require notice to answer this question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

EVACUEE HOUSES IN MAULVI IHATA, SIMLA.

753. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :-

(a) the number of the evacuee houses in Maulvi Ihata, Simla ;

(b) the number of the occupants of the houses who applied to the Executive Engineer, Simla Provincial Division, Simla for the rapairs of these houses during the year 1950 ; if so the list of applicants and the date of receipt of each application in the office of the aforesaid officer ;

(c) the number of the applications approved for repair and the amount sanctioned in each case upto 15th March 1951 ;

(d) the number of the applications rejected and the reasons therefor in each case ;

(e) whether more than three months were taken for the di posal of any case; if so, their list and the reasons for the delay in each case?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(a) Eight houses were with P. W. D. in the year 1950. One was as a whole and seven were in part only. Total number of P. W. D. oc upants were 69.

(b) Six occupants of these houses applied to this office for repairs during 1950. The particulars of the occupants and dates of receipt of their applications in this office are as under :—

Serial No.	Name of Occupant.	Department,	For repairs to House	Date of receipt of application in the office of Executive Engineer.
1.	Shri Lal Chand	Director of Health Services	Prim Rose	6-2-50, 23 3-50 and 21-4-50 (3 applications)
2.	Shri Ujagar Singh	Buildings and Roads Branch	Prim Rose	18-4-1950
3.	Shri L. Danniel	High Court	Rose Villa	3-10-1950
4.	Shri Didar Singh	Punjab Assembly	Fay Lodge	13-2-50, 1-7-50 and 28-7-50 (3 applications).
5.	Shri Dharam Bir Singh	Civil Sect.	Fay Lodge	1 7.50 and 9.7 50 (two applications).
6.	Shri Tarlok Nath	Govt. Printing	Fay Lodge	6.7.1950.

(c) Out of the above, repairs to house at item 2 were very minor and were carried out out of two months' rent. Applications at item 1 and 3 were approved and estimates for Rs 303/- and Rs. 766/- have been sanctioned. Estimate for works at item 4 to 6 was sent but has not been received back from the Assistant Custodian, Simla after sanction

(d) No application was rejected. Petty items were got done and for abnormal repairs, special repair estimates were sent to the Assistant Custodian. Work was got done in the case of estimates received back from the Assistant Custodian after approval. But in the case of special repairs to Fay Lodge and Violet Cottage, the estimates have not yet been received back so far.

[Minister for Public Works]

(e) No such delay in the disposal of references took place in this office.

MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AT SIMLA.

754. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the total amount spent by the Government for the maintenance of the roads within the municipal limits of Simla during the years 1946-47, 1948-49 and 1949-50 respectively ;

(b) whether any amount was given by the Central Government in connection with the expenditure referred to in part (a) above ; if so, the aid received during each of the years referred to above for the purpose ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(a) The total amount spent by the Government for the maintenance of roads within the municipal limits of Simla is as under :—

1946-47.	Rs. 37,941/-
1948-49.	Rs. 26,781/-
1949-50.	Rs 32,685/-.

(b) Yes, the Central Government gave amount only for Kalka-Simla Cart Road falling within Municipal limits of Simla and the aid received for the purpose is as below :—

1946-47.	Nil.
1948-49.	Rs. 6,381/-
1949-50.	Rs. 8,345/-

MOTION UNDER RULE 12 (3) (b) OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES.

Deputy Speaker : I have to inform the House that I have received a written request from Shri Prabodh Chandra that half an hour should be allowed to him under Rule 12 (3) (b) to raise debate on the matter

which was the subject of Starred Question No 2813 asked today as he thinks that he has not been able to elicit sufficient informatation from the Government about it through supplementaries. What I have to say about it is this. I have had the privilege of conducting the proceedings of this House since Monday last and I think I have been giving more latitude to ask supplementary questions to Shri Prabodh Chandra than to any other hon. Member on almost every question. So far as this particular question is concerned, I have allowed him to ask sufficient supplementaries especially because its subject matter was the rehabilitation policy of the Government. I, therefore, regret that I cannot agree to his request for alloting more time.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: But, Madam, if a Member is not satisfied with the replies given to his supplementaries on a matter of urgent public importance he can have more time set apart for discussing it and it is one of his cherished rights. As for your other favours, I am really grateful.

Deputy Seaker: Yes, a Member has the right to ask for more time for this purpose but the Rule to which I have referred leaves it to Speaker's discretion whether to allow this thing or not. o I exercise my discretion and allow no more time for discussing the matter. The demand relating to Rehabilitation has already been discussed.

MOTION RE-GOVERNOR'S ORDER RELATING TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: (Patti, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*): I move-
That the supplementary order of the Governor of the Punjab dated 11th December, 1950, whereby the Public Service Commission has been deprived of its rights of consultation in disciplinary and other matters under clause (3) (b) (c) and (d) of Article 320 of the Constitution of India pertaining to the posts specified in the Governor's order dated 13th September, 1950, be hereby repealed.

Madam, this order has resulted in depriving the Public Service Commission of its rights of consultation in disciplinary and other matters such as promotion etc., in respect of the posts in the filling of which it has not been given any say. Now the past conduct of our Government is not such as to assure us that the powers that it has

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assumed through this order will be exercised in a right manner. It is for this reason that I am against vesting such powers in the Government. The Public Service Commission is an institution created by the Government itself and happily it is the only one in the State whose honesty and integrity is above all question and suspicion. Even in the last session, such a high opinion about the working of the Commission was expressed by many an hon. Member of this House. I, therefore, see no reason whatever why the Government should not trust it to perform its functions properly in matters relating to these posts and try to deprive it of its legitimate rights. While seeking the approval of the House to the order depriving the Commission of its rights of consultation in the matter of filling of these posts, the Government had put forward the excuse that the Commission would have to face very great difficulties if it were to be entrusted with the task of recruitment to these posts. But I wonder what excuse can it put forth for its unwillingness to consult the Commission in deciding disciplinary and other matters such as promotion etc., pertaining to the incumbents of these posts. There is nothing in its past conduct which can stand the gaze of an impartial eye. It cannot however much it may try, absolve itself of the charges of favouritism nepotism and inefficiency. One has only to cast a careful glance at its past three years' conduct and working to be convinced that it is a supporter and protector of black market and nepotism and a corporation of doers of illegal things. I have got solid facts to prove the truth of what I am saying. Anybody who reposes trust in it in future would be lending himself to become a victim of gross misunderstanding. The facts that I shall place before the House will prove the truth of my contention that it neither observes any rules or regulations nor is it prepared to work in an upright manner. First, I give an instance which will make it clear as to why the powers aiming at bypassing the Public Service Commission should not be vested in it. This is the story of how a person who was only a short time ago working as Shop Inspector has been promoted as Labour Inspector at a pay of Rs 180 p.m. At first, the starting pay of the post of Labour Inspector was fixed at Rs. 150 p.m. but when the Ministers came to know that a post, carrying this pay could not be filled up without consulting the Public Service Commission it was decided to reduce it to Rs. 140 p.m. When the starting pay was again raised to Rs. 180 p.m., the case of recruitment to these posts was referred to the Commission who selected eleven candidates and forwarded their names to the Government but the case of the person who was promoted from the post of Shop Inspector

was not at all referred to it and he was given the new grade with a starting pay of Rs. 180 p.m. because he happened to be a favourite. Things did not end even here. He was then made senior to all others whose appointment had been approved by the Commission Madam, what I ask is, do such irregularities and malpractices add to the presige of the Government ?

(At this stage the Deputy Speaker left the Chair and it was occupied by Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, a member of the Panel of Chairmen).

I would now like to place befere the House another incident which may cause a good deal of surprise. This incident will illustrate as to what this Government has been doing in the past and what may be expected from it in the future. The hon. Members will kindly listen to what the A. D. M. of Amritsar, Shri Ved Parkash Gautama, says in a judgement.

Mr Chairman: The hon. Member should kindly confine his remarks only to those things which should have been sent to the Public Service Commission but have not been sent. He should not be irrelevant.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Sir, I am examining the conduct of the Government.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The hon. Chairman should give his ruling after hearing what the hon. Member has to say on a particular point.

Mr. **Chairman** : If the hon. Member is allowed to say all he wishes to say, there is no sense in giving a ruling after he has finished. Anyhow it is clear that the hon. Member is irrelevant.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The matter will become crystal clear if I am allowed to speak a little on the conduct of the Government. Sir, five wagons of rock salt have been smuggled.

Mr. Chairman: This matter has no concern with Public Service Commission. This is absolutely irrelevant.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I am discussing the past conduct of the Government.

Mr. Chairman: The hon Member should speak on his own motion. What has this thing to do with the Public Service Commission.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: My submission is that this order of the Government should be annulled as the past conduct of this Government has been very blameworthy

Mr Chairman: The hon Member cannot discuss all the drawbacks of the Government by means of this motion. The hon. Member should only speak of those things which should have gone to the Public Service Commission but have not been sent to them.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: I wish to point out that these powers shoud be allowed to remain with the Public Service Commission. If these powers are exercised by the Government they are sure to be misused. The past conduct of this Government shows that it has not been using its powers properly. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Chairman; The hon. Member may proceed with his speech.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: I was referring to a judgement delivered in a law court. I only wished to point out that the Police registered a case against the Manager of the S. P Chemical Works Ltd., Chheharta for having smuggled five wagons of rock salt into this country from Pakistan When the case went to Shri Gautama A D.M, he remarked that there was no reason why the case should not have been started against all the directors of the firm According to him the following gentlemen should have been proceeded against :—

1. Shri Satyapal & Co., Calcutta.
2. Seth Satyapal Virmani, Jawala Flour Mills, Amritsar.
3. Thakur Ripudaman Singh.
4. Capt. Keshab Chandra, Amritsar.
5. R.B Sardar Wasakha Singh, Village Muchhal, District Amritsar, now at Delhi.
6. Shri Pran Nath Loomba.

At this the prosecuting Inspector desired to withdraw the case. I would read out the judgement before the hon. Members in this connection.

> P. I. requested permission u/s 494 Cr. P. C. to withdraw from the prosecution and he was asked to say why the court should consent and to give the reasons for the court to come to a proper judicial

decision on the request for withdrawal. All that he says is that he wants the consent of the court to withdraw on grounds of "public policy". As this is recorded he wants to amplify it further by saying that it is on grounds of "public policy" as laid down by Government.

The attempt to bring the Governmental order in judicial matters is to be deprecated and it is this sort of things that makes the separation of judiciary and executive imperative at an early date. However, it cannot be a matter of public policy to encourage smuggling or to protect smugglers and it has to be noted that in this case it is alleged that 5 wagons of rock salt were smuggled into India from Pakistan without a permit It is only fair to all concerned that there should be a judicial trial and that the names of the accused should be withdrawn if they are innocent but if they are guilty they should take the consequences like other citizens. A court is not to consent to the withdrawal of a case merely because the Crown wants to withdraw it…….. ……

Shri Virendra : On a point of order. I beg to submit that what the hon. Member is reading has nothing to do with the motion before the House.

Mr. Chairman : I have already asked the hon. Member to be relevant.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not relevant for the hon. Member to point out that since the Government has misused its powers in other cases, it may misuse them even in this case.

Mr. Chairman : I have already said that he is not relevant. The ruling is there and there is nothing to argu .

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I wish to say that the Government should not have done like that. As a matter of fact it should have petitioned for a revision of the judgement in question or filed an appeal. It did nothing of the kind. It hit upon a different plan. It was this. One of the culprits was made to send in an application to the District Magistrate for transfer of the case to some other court and this application was accepted on 1-1-49. Along with this the Presecuting D.S P. was also made to ask for the withdrawal of the case. The District Magistrate accepted his request and released the accused. That was the end of the case

I submit that when this Government is pursuing such public policies, how can it inspire confidence in the mind of the public. We

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should not give any powers to a Government which is bent on encouraging smugglers in the country. It is a very bad Government.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Is there a presumption that it is a very bad Government ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh: The very fact that no-confidence motions are tabled during every session shows that it is not a good Government.

I wish to submit that our Government is so weak that when it has to deal with a strong man, it yields before him, while it takes strong action against a weak person. I want to give another instance to prove that when it has a weak person under its grip it acts strongly, but if the person is strong, it yields before him. The Cabinet issues orders for legalizing the illegal acts of its subordinates. In a democratic form of administration, the Government must follow some rules and regulations. It can not assume those powers which have not been given to it by the legislature. If it exercises powers in that manner, it will amount to violation of the trust reposed in it by this House. In this connection I wish to quote an instance. An influential person was elected President of Municipal Committee, Tohana. The Vice-President said that so long as the election of the President was not notified in the Government Gazette, he could not take charge of that office. The President, however, assumed charge before that notification and as he was an influential person, the Government supported his action.

Sardar Jagjit Singh Mann: On a point of order, Sir. The rain water is leaking through the roof and it is falling on my seat.

Sardar Sajjan Singh: You will be surprised to hear that the Government is abusing the trust reposed in it. I am mentioning these things in order to show that we should not give the powers which the Government has demanded. In a murder case an accused belonging to village Gholian Kalan, district Ferozepore, absconded. The Government confiscated his land measuring 713 Kanals.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member got an opportunity of saying all these things at the time of general discussion of the Budget and of the Governor's Address. Only those things can be referred to now, which have something to do with the Public Service Commission.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I wish to refer to the past conduct of the Government. Unless I place the past decisions of the Government before the House, how can I say that it should not be vested with the powers demanded by it now. Our past experience shows that the Government has been misusing its powers.

(*At this stage the Deputy Speaker resumea the Chair*)

I was submitting that the Government confiscated 713 Kanals of land.

Chief Minister : On a point of order, Madam. Mr. Chairman, who was occupying the Chair a few minutes back, gave a ruling that the hon. Member could refer to only those matters which had some connection with the Public Service Commission. He pointed out to the hon. Member that reference to cases of the kind he was mentioning now, was irrelevant.

Deputy Speaker: I shall request the hon. Member to pay due regard to Mr. Chairman's ruling.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : My submission is that the Government should not be given the powers asked for by it. In order to support this contention of mine, I wish to refer to our experience of the last three years. I can prove that it has been making improper use of its powers. By referring to this case, I wish to prove that the Government has not been acting properly.

Deputy Speaker : The Government can be changed but it is not proper to say that these powers can not be given to it.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The Government has asked for certain powers from the House, which it does not ordinarily possess. When it obtained powers for the appointment of some officers independently of the Public Service Commission, on the last occassion, it did not obtain the power of promoting them or of taking disciplinary action against them. Now they wish to get these powers. May I know if we are not within our right to point out by giving instances from its past conduct that it should not be entrusted with the powers it has now demanded?

Deputy Speaker : I was pointing out that if Mr. Chairman gave some ruling in this connection, it should be followed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I was submitting that as the Government had been abusing its powers in the past, it should not be given more of these. Past couduct of the Government is highly o jectionable. I was placing some facts before the House to show that it did not make fair use of its powers

Chief Minister : On a point of order, Madam. Mr. Chairman gave a ruling that only those cases could be referred to, which had some connection with the Public Servi e Commission. The hon Member cannot refer to those subjects which have no connection with it.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member must have heard the things point d out by the hon. Chief Minister. If Mr. Chairman gave some ruling on the subject, it should be strictly observed.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : It is clearly stated in my motion that the Government should not be granted the powers asked for by it. It wants the power of promoting or taking disciplinary action against the officers employed by it in connection with the Capital Project, without reference to the Public Service Commission. It wants to acquire the power of doing those things which should ordinarily be done by the Public Service Commission.

Deputy Speaker : How much time would the hon. Member require for finishing his speech ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : I should be permitted to speak for half an hour more. I shall finish my speech in that time.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member has already spoken for a pretty long time. He should finish his speech in fifteen minutes.

Shri Virendra : On a point of order, Madam. So far as the general policy of the Government is concerned, it has already been discussed in detail during the general discussion of the Budget and the Governor's Address. At this stage, the hon. Member can refer to only those cases, if any, which have some connection with the recruitment made by the Government independently of the Public Service Commission. The hon. Member is re eatedly referring to those cases, which have nothing to do with the resolution under discussion.

Deputy Speaker : May I know if the case to which hon. Sardar Sajjan Singh is referring has any bearing on the subject ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Madam. May I know if the Assembly is empowered to discuss the past conduct of the Government if it wants to deprive the Public Service Commission of its right of consultation in the matter of appointments under Article 320 of the Constitution of India ?

Deputy Speaker : I want that the hon. Member should confine himself to the discussion of Government conduct *vis-a-vis* Public Service Commission and he should not beat about the bush just as Shri Virendra pointed out.

Sardar Bachan Singh : My point of order is whether we can discusss the past conduct of the Government when it wants us to give it more powers ?

Deputy Speaker : I would like to point out to the hon. Member that he is challenging the ruling of the Chair.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Madam, I want to submit that the past conduct of the Government is none the good. It has given over 741 Kanals of this land just for one thousand rupees. There are a number of other cases also of this nature. After all what are the reasons due to which the Government should withdraw certain powers from the Public Service Commission when its members are quite honest and efficient But still the Government does not trust the Commission. In the matter of recruitment, the Government gave out the reason that for these posts, relaxation of the rules was necessary. The Government has to refer the case of a Government official, if he is found guilty of any misconduct The Government can punish him only if the Commission recommends that, otherwise not. But now the Government wants to have all the powers to itself. While replying to the discussion during the last Session, the hon. Chief Minister said that the Public Service Commission was also the creation of the Government. But the fact is that even the bad Government does some good things sometimes inadvertently. I think the Government by mistake, appointed good persons on the Public Service Commission. Now the Government have taken it into their heads the Public Service Commission, in spite of its being an honest institution, is not capable of deciding about promotions and other matters pertaining to these posts. If the Commission is empowered to decide such matters regarding other big posts, then why is it that their powers with

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regard to these posts are being withdrawn. It appears that the Government has now ceased to trust one of its own institutions. This shows that some thing is wrong in the matter. If all had been right, why should there have been any distrust. If the Government had confidence in its own institution, it would not have asked for more powers for its lf. The Assembly has already given powers regarding the appointments to the Government Now it wants to have still more powers regarding these posts. When it has no confidence in its own institution, why should we have any in it. I clearly see that some thing is wrong in the matter. Every intelligent person can judge from the p st conduct of the Government that out of nepotism it has given the post carrying a money the salary of Rs. 500/- per mensem to a person who was worth only Rs. 50/-. There are a number of instances of this nature before me. Just for nepotism, the Government gave promotions to certain persons before the appointment of the Public Service Commission. Even my hon. Friend, Shri Virendra pointed out that a man who was getting only Rs. 300/-per mensem has been appointed in the Transport Department on Rs. 1300 or Rs. 1500/- per mensem. The Public Service Commission does not permit such things. Such irregularities are committed only when there is nobody to question them. I want that the Government should avoid such irregularities. Whatever powers are given by the Assembly to the Government are not properly used. We would have no hesitation in giving it more powers only if it were to use them properly. I think it is a grave high-handedness to withdraw powers from the Public Service Commission It is so grave an excess t at it will imperil the democracy itself. I, therefore, want that the Government should not become Fascist. It has now ceased to have confidence in its own institutions. We cannot congratulate it if it cannot trust its most popular and efficient institution. So many things are done by force in the world and the Government will also by force succeed in approving this order. But in spite of that, it is my considered and honest opinion that more powers should not be given to the Government since it is abusing the powers which it has already got. How can we give it more powers unless we are convinced that it is not absuing its previous powers. Under these circumstances, there devolves upon this House a heavy responsibility while discussing this Resolution. We would be doing a grave injustice to the Public Service Commission if we give these powers to the Government. In this connection we see, and I for one am fully convinced, that the

Government abuses its powers. If these powers are also given to it, a new process of irregularities would set in. Our Government is as quick in doing irregularities as it is slow in doing good things. With these words, Madam, I resume my seat.

Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

> That the supplementary order of the Governor of the Punjab, dated 11th December 1950, whereby Public Service Commission has been deprived of its rights of consultation in disciplinary and other matters under clause (3) (b) (c) and (d) of Article 320 of the Constitution of India pertaining to the posts specified in the Governor s order, dated 13th September 1950,be hereby repealed.

Shri Virendra (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing West Division, Multan, General Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, although I don't support the motion moved by Sardar Sajjan Singh yet I wish to support the spirit which it embodies. Cases have come to the notice of the public where appointments have been made in which the Public Service Commission was ignored altogether. The hon. Members are aware and it is a general complaint that there is favouritism and corruption in the services. Such persons are appointed to the posts who are not fit for them. That is why later on they prove corrupt and inefficient. In my opinion so far as the Public Service Commission is concerned, it is an institution which can be employed for the service of the State in the matter of appointments and promotions on merit. The Government should take advantage of this impartial institu ion and make appointments only with its recommendtaions. If we study the causes of present discontent and dissatisfaction in the services we will find that they have their root in the fact that in many cases the Government does not seek or follow the advice of the Public Service Commission in the matter of promotions and appointments. If all these things are forwarded to the Public Service Commission for advice the dissatisfaction will vanish in no time and the administration can be purified. We are fortunate in having a Public Service Commission whose members' honesty and integrity are beyond doubt. We are proud in having as its Chairman an officer who has won the confidence and respect of the common man by his experience, honesty, integrity and impartiality. If such a Public Service Commission is ignored by the Government, it is very unfortunate for the State. That is the reason why our Government has lost the confidence of the services and the people at large. Some days back in a reply given to my question,

[Shri Virendra]

asked on the floor of this House, the Government was quite vague on this point. It was on account of this fact that the hon. Speaker had to remark that the replies of the Government are generally vague. I had asked about the appointment of Deputy Transport Controller which was made about seven months back. According to the provisions of the constitution, the appointment should have been referred to the Public Service Commission before the expiry of six months for approval But I am sorry to note that no such refe ence has been made in the prescribed period. The Government has no reasonable explanation to give in this case. The person, who has been appointed as Deputy Transport Controller, was working in 1947 in the Rehabilitation Department of the Punjab Government. After working there for some time he went away to Delhi and there he worked for some time in the Transport Department. He has come back to the Punjab after about two or two and half years' service there. He had no lien in the Pnnjab. So in matters of appointment he could be considered only as an outsider. As such, it was the duty of the Governmrnt to submit his case to the Public Service Commission. But, unfortunately, this regular procedure was not followed simply because some person were interested. Seven months have elapsed but still his case has not been referred to the Commission for approval. In this connection I would draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fa t that the Chief Secretary, the Home Secretary, Public Service Commission, and even the late Dr. Lehna Singh held the view that in this case justice had not been done.

Deputy Speaker: It would be better if no names are mentioned because such reference might put them to trouble.

Shri Virendra: Madam, my submission is that in spite of consensus of opinion in favour of such matters being referred to the Public service Commission, the Government pays no heed to this. As a matter of fact, all rules are broken by the Government simply to please certain interested persons. Another instance of this kind can be noticed in appointment of the third Deputy Transport Controller only a few days back. The Personal Assistant to the Minister for Tarnsport has been promoted to this post. His case also has not been sent to the Public Service Commission. My submission is that if promotions are to be given they should be by stages only, and they should not depend upon the sweet will of the hon. Ministers. Same rules should

be followed in all such cases. Applications should be invited and interviews held in order to give a chance to the Public Service Commission to find out the suitabili'y of the candidates for the posts. If such a procedure is followed in all cases, the prevailing dissatisfaction in the services and the consequent inefficiency and corruption will be removed. I have cited two instances from the Transport Department where two Deputy Transport Controllers have been appointed without any regard being paid to the rules and regular proceedure. In this way the rights of many officers are trampled under foot. The proper procedure in such cases should be to declare the posts open and invite applications and the best candidate should be selected. In this way no one will have any cause for complaint. Although we will give the rights demanded by the Government but I would appeal to the hon Chief Minister to exercise such rights in a reasonable and proper way. If it is the desire of the Government to remove inefficiency and corruption from the services, it should act in a way which is according to the set rules and regulations. I hope the Government will take the advice of the Public Service Commission in all such matters. If it does so, it will find that the Public Service Commission will give them the best men for running the administration.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Madam, whenever we think of the past, we are prone to remember the British regime in India. In this connection, a venerable old man told me that if the British gave India the best military, they gave it the worst civil administration Similarly when we talk of the present Government, we are told that if there is any institution worth the name in the Punjab, it is the Public Service Commission. With the exception of this department, all other departments are more or less not free from bad reputation I am constrained to remark that this Government has the temerity to put forward a motion which aims at depriving the Public Service Commission of its rights of consultation in disciplinary and other matters regarding appointments to be made in connection with the administration of the Capital project I am of the opinion that the Government does not deserve these powers Not only this. Even this hon. House and the public at large do not approve of the action of the Government in this regard. Well, Madam, when I was just going to speak on this motion, my hon Friend on my right told me to refrain from making this speech. He reasoned out that no usetul purpose would

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

be served because while I would be speaking against the Government, I will have to vote in its favour. I told him that I would speak frankly whatever I felt in my heart of hearts but so far as giving of vote is concerned, since I was bound by party discipline, my vote was at the command of my Leader. I may tell the hon. Chief Minister that my vote is at his beck and call, because I have pledged fealty to the Congress Party, but I would request him that he should refrain from making such demands on us as go counter to our convictions. The motion now before the House needs to redress the wrong which had been done by the order of the Governor regarding appointments connected with the Capital Project. Then, while speaking on this motion, my hon. Friend Shri Virendra remarked that the hon. Ministers did whatever they liked according to their own sweet will and pleasure but they created difficulties for the hon. Members, who had got this tail (*dum*) of M L.A.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should withdraw the word (*dum*) tail, as it is unparliamentary ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I bow to your ruling but may I request that I may be told that in what dictionary is the word 'tail' (*dum*) given as unparlimentary ?

Deputy Speaker : I would tell the hon. Member that though this word may not be unparliamentary, yet it is not appropriate to belittle the dignity of a Member of this Legislature.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : If that is the view of the Chair, I withdraw it. Well, Madam, a few days ago I had an opportunity to visit the Punjab Civil Secretariat. A responsible officer told me that the demand for D O papers by the hon. Ministers during the present regime was much greater than what it used to be during the regime of the Sachar Ministry. He remarked that at that time the D.O paper was in demand very sparingly, but now no less than ten D.O. papers were used by each of the hon. Ministers. The matter does not stop here. The other day, when I purchased a 'pan' (*betel*), to my great surprise I found that the paper in which it was wrapped by the shopkeeper was nothing else than an old D.O. letter by one of the members of this Ministry. (*Laughter*)

Sardar Ajit Singh : It must be pertaining to the time of the Sachar Ministry.

Deputy Speaker : No interruption, please.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The Chair need not take any notice of his interruption. The hon. Member wants to justify that he is rightly being paid Rs. 360/- p. m. as Parliamentary Secretary.

Deputy Speaker : I won't allow the hon. Member to indulge in such remarks. He should withdraw them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I withdraw my remarks, Madam. I will obey your order and I am prepared to withdraw anything which I have not even spoken of. Well, I was going to submit that some days back, the hon. Chief Minister, while replying to a question told us that a sum of rupees one and a half lakhs would be spent on the planning of the Capital Project. But apart from this another colossal amount to the tune of 25 lakhs of rupees had been provided for miscellaneous expenditure. I think this House as also the people at large have the right to know the method and the manner in which this amount is going to be expended. But so far no specific items of expenditure, intended to be met out of this amount, have been revealed to us. So far as the reason for this not having been done by the Government, is concerned, I leave it to the House to draw its own conclusions. Whenever I go to the Civil Secretariat, I meet a lot of persons, hanging about the rooms of the hon. Ministers. This state of affairs really does not redound to the credit of the Ministry. I would request the hon. Chief Minister that he should not exploit our weakness of our having been bound by party discipline and should refrain from taking undue advantage of the comfortable majority at his back for obtaining approval of the House for all his irregularities. I may sound a note of warning that the people of the State have lost their faith in his leadership and that his Ministry will not last long as a result of the increasing dissatisfaction prevailing in the public against his administration. I would appeal to him not to compel us to do anything for which we may have to hang our heads in shame before the public. The motion now before the House is such on which I cannot vote without qualms, but as I have already stated, I am under obligation to the party and must vote for it as and when commanded by our Leader.

Then I would like to submit that two years ago Government wanted to appoint Inspectors of Labour of their own choice through

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the agency of the Public Service Commission. But this institution, which is reputed for its integrity, re used to be guided by the Government in the selection of the Inspectors. The result was that the Government had to drop this scheme. This indicates that it is afraid to face the Public Serivice Commission and that is why under the present case, it is making an attempt to deprive this body of its powers by bringing in the order of the Governor of the Punjab in connection with the appointments regarding administration of the Capital project of the State This action of the Government will not be commended by any body. Then, Madam, it is stated by Government that these appoinsments are being made by it without consulting the Public Service Commission because of the temporary nature of the posts. This argument does not carry conviction with me. Our experience in regard to appointments made in the Rehabilitation and Civil Supplies Departments is not happy. The Government appoints an afticer at the first instance for six months and then it continues to extend the period of appointments year by year till that officer is absorbed in the permanent cadre. Through this back door, or by this device Government avoids to face the Public Service Commsion. I am therefore, strongly of the opinion that this body should not be deprived of its powers because appointments made by it command great respect and confidence in the pu lic. It is a different matter if the Government is not satisfied with the present Public Service Commission It should have the courage to constitute another Public Service Commission comprising of men of ability and unquestionable integrity, and th n make appointments in consultation with it. Ours is a poor State and as you are aware, Madam, crores of rupees are going to be spent on the Capital project at Chandigarh. I think the Public Service Commission is the most suitable body to select personnel for the planning and construction of the Capital. In this conection I may also point out that sometime ago, a Financial Commissioner having no technical qualifications or any knowledge of Engineering Science, accompanied a member of the Public Service Commission to foreign countries with a view to recruit Architects or a Master Planner for the Capital May I ask whether it would not have been better and in the best interests of the State if an Engineer of the Government had accompanied him? It is a pity that the Government showers its favours on certain officers by allowing them to enjoy free pleasure trips to foreign countries at the cost of the poor taxpayer. So what

I want to drive at is that the powers of the Public Service Commission should not be taken away by the Government in the matter of appointments in connection with the administration of the Capital project. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to withdraw that order. But so far as we are concerned, we have not to question why, we have to vote and die. We will vote with him, but I am sure this will not only sound the death knell of us but also of you and that of the Congress which will not be able to face the electorate. With these words, I resume my seat.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: (Ludhiana and Ferozepor, General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Madam, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh. The Public Service Commission, which is functioning here in our State, has comparatively less work than the one which existed in the United Punjab. If wewere told that the nature of the work of the Commission was such that it could not cope up with it and that it would cause much delay if more work was entrusted to it then of course, the action of the Government in not consulting this Commission could be justified. Madam, I think you remember that during the last session of the Assembly powers for apppointment of technicians and experts were taken from the Public Service Commission on the ground that the work in connection with the Capital project was being delayed. At that time Government was empowered to make the appointments in connection with the Capital Project as it was felt that the construction of the new capital was very essential and the sooner it was completed the better it would have been in the interests of both the State and the administration. At that time powers were also given to the government because it was experienced that by keeping its administrative offices at Simla it was not running its administration satisfactorily. Now that the appointments have already been made, I really fail to understand as to what has necessitated the Government to take more powers from the Public Service Commission for dealing with the officers in the matter of discipline etc. Why should the Public Service Commission be deprived of giving its opinion? In fact there could have been some justification on the part of the Government to take these steps if the officers who have already been appointed by the Government had expressed their intention to give up their jobs for not getting increments and promotions in time.

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

Further, I for one am not going to accept the position that the Public Service Commission cannot commit any mistakes. After all, the members of this Commission are also human beings and to err is human. But all the same I have no hesitation in saying that the members of the Commission, who happen to belong to the permanent services, can be depended upon more than the hon. Ministers in appointing the right type of people. Again, it is an open secret that so far as the members of the Public Service Commission are concerned, political considerations do not weigh much with them. They follow the principles and regulations strictly and they have always in their minds that they are there to exercise their powers with a view to doing even-handed justice to one and all This is not all. The leaders of public cannot dare influence the members of this Commission to do a certain thing according to their wishes. But in spite of all these good points in them it cannot be said that they cannot commit any mistake. It is an open secret that, in comparison to our hon. Ministers, they commit less mistakes. For instance, there is hardly any discussion on the floor of the House in which gross and glaring blunders of the Government are not brought to light by the hon. Members in the course of their speeches.

Madam there is yet another point to which I would like to draw your attention and that is regarding the expenditure on the Public Service Commission You are already aware of the fact that if we compare the work of the Public Service Commission of our State with that of the joint Public Service Commission for the United Punjab and N. W F P. which existed before the Partition, we will find that the latter had to perform much more work than the former. Now the position is that in our State which is comprised of 12 districts only the Public Service Commission is left with very little work to do. The hon. Ministers have been very kind to this Commission by offering their services for doing a little bit for it in the matter of making appointments in connection with the Capital Project. If we take the number of appointments which are filled by it from time to time we will find that the Government is not justified to incur such a huge expenditure on it as is provided in the Budget If the Government feels that the Public Service Commission is incapable of exercising its powers in the matter of making appointments and that its existence is a burden on the State Exchequer, then why does it not abolish it. It will not be out of place to mention here that none of my hon Friends who proceeded me has opposed the motion, now before the

House It is really strange that the Government has not placed its viewpoint before us so far, as the question relating to depriving the Commission of its rights of consultation in disciplinary and other matters regarding the officers already appointed by the Government for the construction of the Capital of our State is concerned. Government would really have been justified in taking these steps if we were told that the hon. Ministers are more efficient and technically more expert than the members of the Commission. As a matter of fact, it could have gone one step further by saying that the opinion of the hon. Ministers is more valid and authoritative than the members of the Commission. But I am of the opinion that though the members of the Commission do not happen to be techinical experts, yet they can prove better than the hon Ministers. It goes without saying that the former have already much more administrative experience than the latter and that the former have their own personal way of thinking and doing things.

Madam, there is still another point towards which I would like to draw your attention and that is, that during the last session of the Assembly, the hon. Chief Minister had declared in unequivocal terms about his determination to build the Capital as soon as possible. In fact we found this heartening news being flashed in all the newspapers. It will not be out of place to mention here that while replying to a question relating to the contruction of the Capital the hon. Chief Minister went to the extent of saying that he would do so even if he had to beg, borrow or steal. It is really a matter of great surprise that the disciple of Mahatma Gandhi should have thought of stealing money.

Deputy Speaker : What does the hon. Member mean by saying that. I have not heard him fully. I would ask him to repeat what he has said.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, what I said was that the hon. Chief Minister, during the last session of the Assembly, stated that he would go even to the extent of stealing money for building the Capital. Madam, it is an open secret that the hon. Chief Minister is the disciple of the Father of our Nation. What I wish to point out is this that it is a matter of deep regret that this disciple should think of stealing money.

Deputy Speaker : I would ask the hon Member that while speaking he should maintain the dignity of the House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, I did not say anything against the dignity of the House. The hon. Chief Minister wanted to steal money and I think it is not a sin to tell a person who wants to steal money not to resort to such a foul practice. Madam, it is not expected of the hon. Chief Minister to make such remarks. He has been entrusted with the work of running the administration and also dealing with the finances of the State.

Deputy Speaker : Again repetition.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, it is really a matter of deep regret that the hon. Chief Minister, who is determined to build the Capital of our State, has failed to give any factual details to the effect that the Public Service Commission is so much over-worked that it cannot find time to advise the Government regarding the disciplinary and other matters of the officers already appointed by it. It is crystal clear from this that he cannot find time to give such necessary details as he is very busy with other matters

With these words, Madam, I support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Sajjan Singh and resume my seat.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban (*Hindi*) : Madam, I had every hope that the hon. Chief Minister would be present in his seat at the time I make my submissions. However, I would like to submit that in one of the meetings of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee in connection with the reduction in the salarie of highly-paid officials of different departments, the hon. Chief Minister was pleased to remark that no reduction whatsover should be made in the salary of the Chairman of the Public Service Commission I brought this point to his notice that the high salary of the Chairman was really a great burden on the State Exchequer and again he remarked that we should not touch his salary as he was so strict and honest in the matter of making appointments that he would not be partial at any cost to anybody whosoever he may be. In fact he went to the extent of saying that very few persons of his honesty and integrity were available in the whole of our country. He impressed upon all the members of the Committee not to make any reduction in his salary in the interests

of the administration. In fac. I brought this fact to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister that since our State comprised o. only 12 districts, there was no justification to pay a huge salary to tne Chairman of the Public Service Commission as the work had considerably decreased due to Partition. After hearing the arguments of the hon. Chief Minister for not reducing the salary of this officer, I also subscribed to his view because I thought that there was no objection if at least the salary of this officer, whose judgement in the matter of appointments is always impartial, is not reduced in the interests of the administration. This is how praises were showered on the Public Service Commission at that time. But today I am really surprised to see that Government wants to take to itself powers which are in fact of the Commission. During the last session of the Assembly Government made a demand for special powers to make app intments in connection with the administration of the Capital Project without consulting the Public Service Commission. I am really at a loss to know as to what stood in the way of its getting permission from this Commission. It goes without saying that the members of the Public Service Commission are available at any time and no time would, therefore, be lost in seeking its advice. To me it appears that the Government is afraid of something which stands in the way of its approaching the Public Service Commission for getting permission etc., about the officials already appointed by it.

The Government should not feel embarrassed to refer the case of such appointments to the Public Service Commission. The way in which it manipulates things is indicative of the fact that it wants to ignore the Public Servic Commission. By managing the affairs in such a way the Government is misusing the public money and cannot keep itself clear of the charge of indulging in nepotism and favouritism. The public dub the Government as a great sinner in this respect as there is a general cry among the public that nepotism and favouritism are the order of the day in the Government's administration. There is little regard for merit and the jobs are offered to persons who can get recommendatory letters from the Ministers. The hon. Members would be wonder-struck to know that even for recruitment of drivers and conductors in Omni-bus Service the candidates had letters of recommendation from the hon. Ministers. I know of a case, when recruitment had to be made in connection with the Ambala Roadways and the Provincial Transport Controller had to make selection of the candidates. Hundreds of candidates with high qualifications and

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experience had swarmed before his office in the hope of getting a job. But imagine the pity of it when it was known that the Controller had already with him an approved list of candidates to whom the offers had to be made. The persons so selected were of ordinary qualifications but had valuable recommendations from the Ministers which in fact served as a passport to success. I can say without fear of contradiction that such practices are a common feature in the Governments' administration. I assume full responsibility for making such allegations as I know of a gentleman who was also a candidate for one of the jobs. He told me that the interviewing officer only saw the faces of the candidates and did not put any question to the candidates to know whether they were fit for the job. He hardly took a minute or so and did not examine in detail any individual condidate before selecting him for the job. It would, therefore, be amply clear that whenever any recruitment is made by the Government it is always influenced by considerations other than merit. Even in the Rehabilitation Department posts carrying a salary of Rs. 500/- p m. or more were filed by the Government without any reference being made to the Public Service Commission. In that case too extra-educational qualifications came into play and if the persons so selected were to appear before the Public Service Commission they would not have been found fit to hold posts carrying Rs. 100/- p. m. There is hardly any case in which recruitment has been made purely on the basis of merit. The previous record of the Government in this respect is most disappointing as it has always been making undue interference in the matter of recruitment according to personal feelings and desires. I would, therefore, resquest the Leader of the House that when such matters are being discussed in the House he should not stifle our opinion by issuing party whips.

Chief Minister: Party whip or decision cannot be discused on the floor of the house.

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Lady Member should not make mention of party whips here.

Shrimati Sita Devi: Iwould ask the hon. Chief Minister, who is a veteran leader of the Congress, that he should be anxious to raise the prestige of the Congress and the Government. The Government should accept the proposal that is before the house that in all matters pertaining to the filling up of posts the Public Service Commission must necessarily be consulted. The public has full

confidence in the Public Service Commission and the Govenament shou d delegate all powers of making recruitment to it. The Government should not reserve all powers to itself and thus cause dissatisfaction among the public. I hope that the hon. Chief Minister will attach due weight to my suggestaion.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh Rural), (*Hindi*) : Madam, we have to see whether such powers of making recruitment should be given to the Government or not. In this connection, I would refer to the order of the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab dated the 13th September 1950. It says that—

> In pursuance of the powers conferred by the proviso to Clause (3) of Article 320 of the Constitu ion the Governor of Punjab is pleased to order that in all matters pertaining to the posts specified in the aforesaid order it shall not be necessary to consult the Public Service Commission.

Now, we have to see how the Government is empowered to make these appointments without consulting the Public Service Commission. I would draw the attention of the House to subsection 3 of Article 320 of the Constitution of India which lays down that—

> The Union Public Service Commission or the State Public Service Commission, as the case may be, shall be consulted—
>
> (a) on all matters relating to methods of recruitment to civil services and for civil posts ;
>
> (b) on the principles to be followed in making appointments to civil services and posts and in making promotions and transfer from one service to another and on the suitability of candidates for such appointments, promotions or transfers ;
>
> (c) on all disciplinary matters affecting a person serving under the Government of India or the Government of a State in a civil capacity, including memorials or petitions relating to such matters ;
>
> (d) on any claim by or in respect of a person who is serving or has served under the Government of India or the Government of a State or under the Crown in India or under the Government of an Indian State, in a civil capacity that any costs incurred by him in defending legal proceedings instituted against him in respect of acts done or purporting to be done in the execution of his duty should be paid out of the Consolidated Fund of the State ;

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(e) on any claim for the award of a pension in respect of injuries sustained by a person while serving under the Government of India or the Government of a State or under the Crown in India or under the Government of an Indian State, in a civil capacity, and any question as to the amount of any such award.

Now let us suppose for argument's sake that the Government was justified in making these appointments of Architects and Town Planners on account of the immediate necessity of filling these posts. But since their appointments have been made the Government would then give such persons accelerated promotions. Then on a matter of claim in respect of such persons the Government will also take a decision without consulting the Public Service Commission. It would thus appear that by doing one wrong at the initial stage the Government would continue to act in contravention of the provisions laid down in the Constitution. I fail to understand the urgency which necessitates the Government to ask for powers of making recruitment, promotion and transfers without consulting the Public Service Commission.

Supposing, an architect is in the good books of the Chief Minister to-day and is promoted but tomorrow he incurs his displeasure. Then what is the safeguard that he will not be demoted or dismissed from service. Is there any organization to which he can look up for the protection of his rights? What I mean to stress is that if the Public Service Commission is deprived of its rights of consultation in respect of any posts, their incumbents would be left at the mercy of the whims of the Ministers. If in the matter of promotion any technician feels that his claims have been ignored, is there any forum except the Public Service Commission, from which he can expect fair dealing? If the posts in question were to continue for a few months only, it would be a different matter. But as we know from Government's own statements the completion of the Capital Project will take at least 5 years. This means that these posts will continue to exist for at least 5 years. I, therefore, see no reason why the poor (bechare) incumbents of these posts should be denied access to the Commission for the protection of their legitimate rights.

Deputy Speaker : Why do you call them 'bechare'?

Sardar Bachan Singh : How else should we dub those employees who are subject to arbitrariness and who are denied the protection of

law applicable to other public servants? Is it not fair and just to give them the right of appeal against the decision of the Government to the Public Service Commission whether it is question of promotion or claim of pension in case of injury or some other claim.

The hon. Members of this House will recall the opposition and criticism that the Government had to face when it had placed before the House the proposal to send abroad a delegation of officers to recruit technicians from foreign countries At that time the Government had managed to get the approval of the House to their recruitment without reference to the Public Service Commission on the ground that the whole Commission could not be sent abroad to recruit technicians as it would entail a very heavy expenditure. Without reopening the matter pertaining to their recruitment, as Chaudhri Lahri Singh had in a very impulsive manner done the other day, (when he said that a Jat Member should have been sent abroad instead of a 'Lala'), what I ask the Government i, why does it want to bypass the Public Service Commission even in disciplinary and other matters relating to the incumbents of the e posts? Why is it so anxious to debar these technicians from the protection of rules and regulations? What is after all the *raison d'etre* of the Public Service Commission? Are not cases referred to it to see that nobody is made a victim of nepotisim, injustice or personal grudge borne against him by some high-up? When under the rules all other Government servants can have their cases referred to the Public Service Commission why should these technicians be debarred from this precious right?

Then, it is just possible that while some of them will acquit themselves well, others will prove of no worth. So in the matter of demotion, promotion or termination of services there must be some check on the Government. If it has a free hand, it is possible it may give undue promotion to a person who least deserves it simply because he succeeded in pleasing a certain Minister. In any case, deprivation of the Public Service Commission of its rights of consultation would make their position totally insecure and they would have to act like puppets in the hands of the Ministers or face dismissal. So far as my information goes, no public servant would like to forego the right of having his terms of service governed by rules and regulations and of having his case, if he so desires, sent for the opinion of the Commission. But there can be another possibility also which is equally bad. I wonder if the incumbents of these posts are themselves insisting

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that they want to remain immune from the rules and regulations which govern the terms of service of all public servants. But I doubt if this is so because no public servant can have any sense of security in such a case. Any way, my contention is that they should not be left to the mercy of the Ministers and the rules which apply to other Government servants should also apply to them.

I am of the considered opinion that such steps are sure to affect the efficiency of Government services. These things could have been understood if there had been some emergency which was to last for a few months or so. But that is not the case at present. These appointments, which have to be made in connection with the construction of the Capital, are to continue for a pretty long time and it will be an act of great injustice to these Government servants if their promotions, transfers, pension claims etc are not considered by the Public Service Commission. These are bad precedents and are likely to have far-reaching and harmful effects. We should refrain from creating them. We should, on the other hand, like the English Parliament establish such traditions which may be followed and emulated by the other countries of the world.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I am not surprised to hear the discussion that has taken place on this motion. As a matter of fact, the question was quite a simple one but it has been unnecessarily given a complicated form by general remarks. Some hon. Friends have remarked that sanction had been given last time to the taking out of some services from the purview of the Public Service Commission as the work in connection with the Capital was to be done with great promptitude. But I may remind these hon. Friends that they never agreed to the taking of this step. Even at that time they tabled a motion that the order of H. E. the Governor should be repealed. Now again, they have moved that the order of the Governer deprives the Commission of its right of consultation under Article 320 of the Constitution in promotions and other matters of the persons appointed under the previous order and it should therefore be repealed. I can understand the language of the motion all right but one thing that passes my comprehension is this that how can the order of the Governor mean an aspersion on the honesty and integrity of the Commission? It has been argued that the Public Service Commission was not consulted

when recruitment was made in the Transport Department. The appointments in the Transport Department had not to be made by Public Service Commission and so the matters which have nothing to do with the Commission cannot be sent to them.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : But what has happened to the colleagues of the hon. Chief Minister ? Nobody is to be seen on the Treasury Benches except the hon. Chief Minister.

Chief Minister : It is not a matter with which I am concerned. I don't think that such a question should be permitted. I was saying that matters which had no concern with the Public Service Commission could not be referred to this Commission. Accrding to rules recruitment is made by the Commission only to posts which are new, permanent and carry a salary of more than rupees one hundred and fifty per mensem. If and when somebody is to be promoted to a post carrying a salary of more than Rs. 150 per month, his case is sent to the Public Service Commission for considering his suitability for that post. These are the rul s. It is useless to say as to why all posts should not be advertised and appointments made by the Commission directly. We have never departed from the rules. It will be recalled that only the other day I placed on the Table of the House a report about the work of the Public Service Commission in which i was stated that the Commission could not give even a single instance where we had not made use of their consultation. It is altogether a different matter that at times we may not be able to act on their recommendation. But in cases where we cannot act in accordance with their recommendations we bring them to the notice of this House according to the provisions of the Constitution. Here is an illustration of what I have stated. The order of the Governor has been placed on the Table of the House because certain powers in connection with some posts had been taken out of the purview of the Public Service Commission. So far as appointments to lower services are concerned they are made by a Board which has been constituted for this purpose It is possible that this Board has not accepted the recommendations of some individuals and it is b cause of this that the Government is being so mercilessly criticized After all, the Board cannot please everybody. If there are 20 appointments to be made and 10,000 candidates apply, 9,980 candidates have to go disappointed. Now these 9,980 candidates can take it into their heads to challenge the Government saying that great injustice has been done to them

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and that the work of the Government is far from satisfactory. It is obvious that we cannot accommodate all the ten thousand applicants (Chaudhri Suraj Mal : What a hollow argument.) Madam, I said that I shall beg, borrow or steal for building the Capital. By stealing I did not mean what one of my hon Friends meant. I believe in the definition of the word "stealing" which has been given by Mahatma Gandhi—the Father of the Nation. According to that definition I am sure that I am not a greater culprit than my hon. Friend.

It was said that a sum of about fifty crores of rupees was going to be spent on the Capital Project. I wonder how these figures were arrived at. If without examining the financial aspect of the Project, someone chooses to quote figures which are five hundred per cent or four hundred and fifty per cent of the actual figures, it would serve no useful purpose. The arguments based on such wrong presumptions have no foundation.

It was said that we did not follow any rules. I wish to point out that there are definite rules, according to which in the case of services recruited through the Public Service Commission, the Government cannot take disciplinary action without referring the matter to the Commission, if the punishment proposed to be given is for more than one year. The Government has full power to suspend or award punishment for less than one year without reference to the Public Service Commission. Some hon. Members pleaded on behalf of some Government servants that they should not have been suspended or proceeded against. In the case of these Government servants, I can only say that God save us from such friends. In this connection one or two cases were referred to. It was said that in 1948, some persons were recruited in the Rehabilitation Department without reference to the Public Service Commission. It is true that the Government did so, but it did not act improperly because the recruitment was made for temporary posts only. It was decided that only displaced persons should be appointed on the posts for which suitable persons from among them were available. Every body was not considered for those temporary posts. Displaced persons only were appointed on those posts. In the case of Civil Supplies Department or other departments, the question of transfer of those persons who are holding temporary posts does not arise. Permanent Government servants only are transferred to other departments in certain cases. The members of

temporary staff are not ordinarily transferred in this manner. It was said that the Government wanted to obtain power for transferring the persons employed on Capital Project to other departments. I might point out that the question of their transfer does not arise at all. Senior and junior architects for the Capital Project have been appointed on the basis of contract for a period of three years. The question of their promotion or transfer has to be decided on the basis of the contract of their employment.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : If that is the case, where was the necessity for the order?

Chief Minister: The argument that the Government would suspend or transfer these persons arbitrarily, without caring for the terms of the contract, is meaningless. In this connection, I wish to add that if the Government considers the work of some officer, whether he was recruited through the State Public Service Commission or the Union Public Service Commision, to be unsatisfactory, it can suspend him. After that the Government can institute an enquiry. The Public Service Commission has to be referred to for obtaining its sanction to the punishment proposed to be imposed. The question of referring to it the cases of those officers who have been appointed for a period of three or five years on the basis of contract, does not arise. These contracts can-not be altered by reference to the Public Service Commissien. In Article 320 (3) (b) of the Constitution, it is laid down that "The Union Public Service Commission or the State Public Service Commission, as the case may be, shall be consulted on the principles to be followed in making appointments to civil services and posts and in making promotions and transfers from one service to another and on the suitability of candidates for such appointments, promotions or transfers." In the present case, the question of their transfer does not arise at all. Their appointments having been made on the basis of cantract, everything in their case has to be decided according to the terms of those contracts. With regard to ordinary Government servants, it is further laid down in the Constitution that the Public Service Commission shall be consulted 'on all disciplinary matters affecting a person serving under the Government of India or the Government of a State in a civil capacity." In the case of these architects, however, everything has to be decided in terms of the contract of their employment. If the work of someone of them is found

[Chief Minister]

unsatisfactory, he can be asked to go away. Most of them have come from France and England and have been recruited through big and responsible officers It is, therefore, not correct to say that the Government can act arbitrarily in their case

It was complained that, in reply to a question, I stated that the survey had cost so much and the miscellaneous expenditure amounted to twentyfive lakhs of rupees, but I did not give the details. If I had been asked to furnish details of that amount, I would have certainly done so. It is true that detailed accounts cannot be given in each case' but in this particular case it was possible to supply the details. I was submitting that it could not be proper to say that the case of these persons employed on the basis of contracts should be referred to the Public Service Commission. They can not be regarded as ordinary permanent Government servants

It has been said that the members of the Public Service Commission are honest. Nobody has any doubt about that. Of course, I know that an hon. Member, some time back, had the audacity to speak against the members of the Public Service Commission as well. I, on my part, have nothing to say against the members of the Commission I admit that they have a good deal of administrative experience to their credit The Chairman and another member of the Commission have also got the experience of long Government service in administrative capacities. The Chairman is an experienced man and he has handled the work of recruitment also very efficiently. I cannot overpraise him. I admit that he has more experience than ourselves and I am glad that our recommendation to his Excellency the Governor for his appointment has been vindicated. But at the time of recruitment, the Public Service Commission has to consult the head of the department also. The Government usually accepts the recommendations of the Commission. If it cannot accept those recommendations, it refers them back to the Commission for its reconsideration. But if there is disagreement even after that, the matter is referred to the Governor. In that case, it is brought for discussion before the House. I wonder why it has been said that the members of the Commission are more experienced than the Ministers. I admit that they are more experienced in the work they are called upon to do. But our critics should know that the Ministers have also got more experience than before They have to go into all aspects of a matter before any decision is taken thereon. The decision

to spend Rs. 50 lakhs, for instance, is not taken just by saying that it is to be spent.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know, Dr. Sahib, if you have given up that plan of 100 square miles ?

Chief Minister : My learned Friend has raised the question of 100 square miles I may tell him that the scheme of 100 square miles was not in existance even when he had bee the Minister for a few days. There have been changes since then in that scheme. The criticism of Government adminis ration is done without ascertaining the actual facts. At first, we gave permission for the recruitment to those posts but not conditions of service pertaining to those posts This was a mistake on our part. At that time, we were advised that there was no need of permission for the conditions of service since it was on contract basis. Now we are told that permission is necessary even in that case.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Dr. Sahib, you need not engthen the discussion because we would vote for you.

Chief Minister : I do not want to refer to party matters. But still, I would like to explain one thing.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Madam. If any Memb r refers to any party matter, it is said that it is a private affair and hence cannot be discussed Is the hon. Chief Minister entitled to refer to party matters even after saying that he does not want to do so ?

Deputy Speaker : It would have been better if the hon Member had the patience to listen whether the hon. Chief Minister actually said anything or not.

Chaudhri Suraj Mal : Madam, her point of ord r is that, if one thing is said from one side, it is considered irrelevant ; but if it is said by the other side, it is not irrelevant.

Deputy Speaker : I would like to point out to the hon. Member that even when I was an ordinary Member, I was in favour of one Member speaking at a time. I do not like that, when an hon. Member is speaking, another should interrupt I would again point out that if I did not permit Shrimati Sita Devi to discuss any party matter in the House, I would likewise not permit Dr. Sahib to do so.

Chief Minister: I could not say anything to which I had myself objected. It has been said here that the Government should not do things which would be death of the Congress. I would like to point out that no work of the Government can be the cause of death of the Congress.

Deputy Speaker: Question is:

> That the Supplementary Order of the Governor of the Punjab dated 11th December, 1950, whereby Public Service Commission has been deprived of its rights of consultation in disciplinary and other matters under clause (3) (b) (c) and (d) of Article 320 of the Constitution of India pertaining to the posts specified in the Governor's Order dated 13th September, 1950, be hereby repealed.

The Assembly Divided: Ayes 6, Noes 45.

AYES

Bachan Singh, Sardar.
Man Singh Jathedar, Sardar.
Ranbir Singh, Mehta.
Rattan Singh, Sardar.
Sajjan Singh, Sardar.
Suraj Mal, Chaudhri.

NOES

Ajit Singh, Sardar.
Amar Nath Vidyalankar, Shri.
Badlu Ram, Chaudhri.
Behari Lal Chanana Shri.
Bhagwan Dass, Shri.
Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar.
Dalip Singh, Thakur.
Dev Raj Sethi, Shri.
Durga Chand Kaushish, Shri.
Gopi Chand Bhargava, The Honourable Dr.
Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar.
Harbhaj Ram, Chaudhri.
Ishar Singh Mujhail, The Honourable Sardar.
Jagdish Chander Chaudhri.
Jagjit Singh Mann, Sardar.
Jiwan Lal, Pandit.
Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar.
Kabul Singh, Sardar.
Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
Kartar Singh, The Honourable Sardar.

NOES—*concld.*

Kehr Singh, Sardar.

Kedar Nath Saigal, Shri.

Lahri Singh, Chaudhri.

Matu Ram, Chaudhri.

Narinder Singh, Sant.

Narotam Singh, The Honourable Sardar.

Parkash Kaur, Shrimati Dr.

Piara Singh, Sardar.

Prabodh Chandra, Shri

Prithvi Singh Azad, The Honourable Shri.

Ranjit Singh, The Honourable Captain.

Rattan Singh Gill, Sardar.

Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri.

Samar Singh, Chaudhri.

Sant Ram Seth, Dr.

Sarmukh Singh, Sardar.

Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.

Sita Devi, Shrimati.

Swaran Singh, Sardar.

Sudarshan, Seth

Sundar Lal, Chaudhri.

Tara Singh, Sardar.

Ujjal Singh, Sardar.

Virendra, Shri.

Waryam Singh, Sardar.

THE PUNJAB DEVELOPMENT OF DAMAGED AREAS BILL.

Minister For Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh); I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill;

Minister For Public Works: Madam, I move:

> That the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

Madam, during the riots in Amritsar most of the buildings were damaged by fire. Lakhs of rupees have been spent in removing the debris. For the last three years and a half the Municipal Committee, the citizens and the Government have been feeling the necessity of erecting houses according to some scheme. But for the purpose of acquiring lands the Government has no data as to the ownership of the

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places and buildings. Some of the persons have left for Pakistan and we have no knowledge of their property here. A Development Board has been constituted and in order to remove the difficulties in the acquisition of the property in the damaged areas this Bill has been brought before the House. In the beginning of this session a Select Committee was constituted and the Bill was referred to it for advice. Some of the hon. Members who were expected to have knowledge of this matter were taken in this Committee. The Select Committee has submitted its report and has suggested some changes in the original Bill.

I, therefore, think that since this Bill is not of a controversial nature, it would be passed by the House without much discussion.

Then, Madam, two things have come to my notice. One is that the residents of Katra Jaimal Singh have requested for the inclusion of their representative in the Development Board. The hon. Members, Dr. Sant Ram Seth and Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur, have pleaded their cause. I assure them that since it is possible to co opt an associate member of the Development Board at any time, Government will recommend to it for associating a representative of the residents of Katra Jaimal Singh when the scheme regarding this Katra is executed. The other thing is that a number of amendments to the Bill have been suggested at this stage by my hon. Friends. They are with regard to taking or leaving a certain portion of land required for widening the roads. I think these amendments are too late to be incorporated in the Bill. Besides, if they are accepted, they will defeat the very purpose of the Bill. I quite realize the difficulties of those persons who want to build their houses on their own lands. Government will try to help them in every possible way, but it is not possible for me to accept their demand in toto and in the form in which they have put it before me. I, however, assure them that Government will try their level best to accommodate all those persons whose houses have been totally damaged or a portion of the structures of whose houses are still standing. With these words I commend the Bill to the House for acceptance.

Deputy Speaker : Motion moved :

That the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill as reported by the Select Commitee be taken into consideration.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar (Non Union Labour) (*Hindi*):- Madam, I am very grateful to the hon. Minister for holding out an assurance that every effort will be made by Government to accommodate all those persons whose lands are to be acquired under the provision of this Bill and that their grievances will receive his sympathetic consideration. But I am constrained to remark that he has thought of doing so only when amendments tabled by the hon. Members came to his notice. Then, I am not aware whether the hon. Minister has ever taken the trouble of visiting the area to be developed, or has heard the grievances of the people owning lands or residing in that damaged area. I feel that if he had gone there and met a deputation of these people then after hearing their views, he would not have said that the amendments were too late to be incorporated in the Bill. In this connection I may bring this fact to his notice that in July last the property owners in the damaged area of Amritsar, held a joint meeting with Shri P C. Bhandari, the Executive Officer of the Amritsar Municipality, and other officers representing the point of view of the Improvement Trust. At this meeting both sides arrived at an agreed solution. It was agreed that the Government will fulfil the following four conditions before it acquired lands from the owners. The first condition was that only that area of land would be acquired as would be necessary for the construction of the roads. Secondly, the person from whom a certain area of land is acquired, will be paid its price at market value or an effort will be made by the Improvement Trust to grant him the same area of land of the same type near that area as far as possible. Thirdly, while acquiring land for the purpose of widening the roads on both sides, it will be endeavoured by the authorities to cause the minimum possible displacement to the owners In other words, those owners who would not like to receive cash payment of the land, acquired from them would be given land for land at some other contiguous place. Fourthly, the unit of the houses to be constructed around this area would be fixed at two marlas. Besides, if as a result of acquisition of land from a certain person, his remaining land falls short of this unit, he will be granted land sufficient to complete the unit of two marlas. Besides this, as the scheme is to be undertaken by the Government on 'no profit no loss basis' the Government would not derive profit out of the sale of the plots subsequently. moreover it was also agreed that sufficient time would be afforded to the owners of the wooden structures to remove the same from the lands required for widening the roads, wherever it is possible. All

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these things were conveyed to the Government and the owners are yet in the dark as to what happened to those terms of mutual agreement I wonder if the hon. Minister-in-charge of the Bill is aware of the conditions mutually agreed to between the property owners of the damaged areas in Amritsar and the Municipal and Government officers. If not, I think the hon. Minister should have known them before bringing this Bill before the House. Have the officers concerned kept him in the dark? Have they played a hoax on the poor land owners whose property was destroyed during disturbansces ? Since I am intimately connected with Amritsar, I have full knowledge of the difficulties of the people residing in these areas. The main difficulty of these people is with regard to the fixation and payment of compensation to be made to them in lieu of their lands and certain structures built on them. The Bill indicates that it will take three years for the Improvement Trust to submit to the Government a statement regarding the actual cost of the scheme and other particulars about the estimated value of plots and structures etc. made on them. It is not known how long will the Government take to notify the details of the said statement. This means that this will have the effect of delaying the payment of compensation to the persons for a very considerable period. From economic point of view, this long period of suspense will adversely affect the people doing some business under the temporary and improvised structures. They cannot improve their earnings because they are never certain as to when they would be required to vacate these wooden structures or remove them. Obviously they cannot make any large investments is their business because of the Democles sword, in the form of danger of ejectment at a short notice, hanging over their head. May I know from the Government as to what its intentions are by introducing this Bill ? Does it want to ruin the already ruined people or does it intend to improve their hard lot and at the same time convert Amritsar into a city of gardens? But what are the gardens for it the people are groaning for want of means for their livelihood? I am of the opinion that the approach of the Government in this matter is utterly wrong. The criterion should have been that the people are put to the least trouble and that they are displaced to the minimum possible extent. But on the contrary, the Government cares more for its own convenience or that of the Municipality rather than that of the people. The hon. Minister does not go deep into the matter. He puts his seal of acceptance on any scheme that the officers prepare and submit to him. I would, there-

fore, request him to visit personally all those areas, which come under the purview of this Bill and contact the people who would consequently be affected. He should hear their difficulties and then come with a legislative measure. I may assure him that the people of Amritsar fervently desire that their city should be so beautified as to become the envy of other cities in the State and they are prepared to cooperate with the Government to any extent it likes. But what they want is that Government should pay some heed to their most reasonable requests and try to evolve some such solution as may prove satisfactory to both the parties. But I am constrained to remark that the Government would accept whatever proposals would be sent by the officers and the cry of the people will remain a cry in the wilderness

Madam, it is provided in the Bill that the Collector shall assess the value of the structures at the time of delivery of possession of the land to the Trust. There is no criterion by which the Collector is to assess the value. Under the provisions of the Bill the Collector is free to assess the value as he pleases At least some provision should have been made for the criterion by which the assessment is to be made by the Collector, so that the people concerned may know about the compensation they would receive at the hands of the Government. What I wish to point out is this that it should not be left to the Collector to assess the value according to his sweet will.

Further, it is also provided in the Bill that the Trust shall, as soon as after, but not later than 3 years from the date of the sanction of the scheme, submit for the scrutiny of the State Government, the necessary particulars. In my opinion this period of 3 years will result in great hardship to those people who have been reduced to poverty for no fault of theirs. I would like to suggest that instead of 3 years it should be at the most 6 months. If this is done, I do not think Government is going to suffer any loss. It would, therefore, be in the fitness of things if the Government takes the people concerned into its confidence and thus takes adquate steps accordingly. I would like to submit that the present Bill concerns only a few persons. It will not be out of place to mention here that some of my hon. Friends including the Minister himself raise great hue and cry when the question of granting proprietory rights to tenants is raised. They can not brook the owners of landed property being dispossessed the least, or their proprietary privileges being touched in any way. Will they exhibit the same enthusiasm to protect the rights of those miserable

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fellow citizens, whose all belongings had already been consumed by the furious fires kindled by the communal fury, and who are now being driven out of their hearths and homes, and being deprived of their remaining sources of livelihood ? Their residential and business areas have already been declared as damaged areas by the Government, they have already lost their property. Those people who were earning thousands as rent of their shops have been reduced to poverty. I am really constrained to remark that decisions are being taken here without consulting the people who are deeply concerned with it. This I would say is criminal neglect of duty on the part of the Government. It is therefore high time that attempts should be made to take the people-concerned into confidence, with a view to making the necessary amendments in the Bill. I would urge that the House should refuse to pass the Bill in its present form. If the Government really feels for the people it should lose no time in postponing the consideration of the present legislative measure with a view to removing its serious defects. This can only be done if the Government is really anxious to do some good to those people who have already suffered a lot and whose grievances are quite genuine.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I rise to make a few submissions with regard to the Bill, now before the House, which concerns those unfortunate people who being the residents of this side of the Punjab now known as Punjab (India) have also suffered in some way or the other during the disturbances caused by the Partition. This Bill concerns those people who can neither call themselves as displaced persons nor can they be deemed to be within their rights to make any demand in that capacity. On the other hand, it concerns those who owned property worth lakhs but who are now reduced to poverty so much so that they can hardly make their both ends meet I am really constrained to remark that nothing has been done to improve their lot. It will not be out of place to mention here that this matter was already brought to the notice of the hon. Shri Prithvi Singh Azad, the then Minister-in-charge. But it is a matter of deep regret that the agreement arrived at, has been totally ignored by the Government It has not taken those people into confidence who have been ruined for no fault on their part. But on the contrary they have been accused of hampering the work of the Improvement Trust. It is said about them that they want to realize maximum amounts of rent and that the rent which they realized before was quite unreaso-

nable. On the one hand, we find our displaced brethren, who have lost their everything in Pakistan, making demands after demands for their speedy rehabilitation and, on the other, those people who have also been reduced to poverty and do not know how to put in their demands for ameliorating their condition. There is none to listen to their genuine grievances. They move from door to door but all in vain, as nobody, neither the hon. Minister-in-charge nor even the department concerned, pay any heed to their tales of woe.

So far as the Bill, now before the House, which affects these people is concerned I am not in a position to say whether or not it should be passed into Law However, the hon. Minister has already held out an assurance to the effect that the representatives of the people concerned would be taken on the Board which is to decide how compensation is to be paid to them. It would really have been in the fitness of things if the Central Government were approched to afford some help to these unfortunate people, in the form of loans etc., It is really a matter of deep regret that our Government has not devised any ways and means to help these people whose property has been damaged as a result of which they have lost all the sources of their livelihood. These people have been ruined and still our Government has not taken any steps to afford them any facilities even for their subsistence, what to speak of advancing them loans for reconstructing their houses. Under the circumstances I would request the Government in general and the hon. Minister-in-charge in particular not to rush through this legislative measure. It would have in the fitness of things if the session were extended so as to enable us to make necessary amendments in it. I would also request the hon. Minister-in charge of the Bill to take the affected people into confidence and thus devise ways and means in consultation with them with a view to improving their conditions If the Government make necessary charges in the Bill, now before the House, and thus come to their rescue, I am sure, the people concerned would not be found wanting in making every sacrifice to accommodate it in the interests of our State. It has been stated that according to the agreement reached between the Government and the people concerned, the latter would be given land to land. But I do not find any such provision in the Bill, now before the House.

Further the scheme regarding the payment of compensation is very unsatisfactory and at the same time discouraging. There is no criterion for assessing the value of compensation. It has been stated

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that since the building, the price of which was about one lakh of rupees, has already been burnt or damaged, therefore, the question of paying compensation at the same rates did not arise. Perhaps the Government has lost sight of the fact that in Amritsar the value of buildings has depreciated. For instance, a house which cost Rs. 75,000 before partition can these days be had for less than Rs. 20,000. As a matter of fact it goes without saying that the market value has gone down and is maintaining the same tendency even now. It is not clear from the provisions of the Bill as to how much amount they are going to receive as compensation. There is no provision in the Bill according to which they are going to receive the compensation of their land. These unfortunate people entertain fears lest all their land should be acquired by the Government.

Further our Government is not going to compensate these people for removing the demolished material. They have grown doubtful lest the sum of Rs. 26 lakhs which has been spent on removing the demolished material would be deducted from the payments which they would receive as compensation.

When land is acquired by the Trust for purposes of street lighting it should be acquired from both sides of the street instead of from one side. In case it is proposed to acquire land from one side only, it will adversely affect the interests of the owners of such land as, after surrendering land for this purpose, their area of land will be considerably reduced. I would suggest that in such a case land for land should be given to the affected persons, as, if the area of land is reduced, the owner will not be able to erect the building according to the plan Giving of land for land will create confidence among the affected persons that the Government is not acquiring their land for any other purpose but to put them on their feet. These people are entertaining doubts in their minds that the Government, after acquisition of this land, may auction it a higher price In that case they will not be able to buy that land for lack of funds. Therefore, the right course is to give them land for land. This scheme will come into force in three areas viz. Katra Jaimal Singh, Pashamwala Bazar and Katra Sher Singh The affected persons should be given sufficient time to remove the structures standing on the land of evacuees. I would suggest that this scheme should first be made applicable in the areas where evacuee property exists After buildings have been erected in this area the shops in Hindu localities should be shifted to this area

and then the development scheme be put into force in the Hindu localities. In this way large number of refugees will be rehabilitated. In the damaged area there are some houses which are intact and are leased out on rent according to the previous standard. Such people are mainly dependent upon the income realised from the rent and are hardly eking out their subsistence. If these buildings are also demolished according to the development scheme these people will be put to great hardship and trouble. They will have first to incur expenses on the demolition of their houses and then bear the cost of removal of malba and in this way they will not be left with any capital to rebuild the houses according to the sanctioned scheme. There is no doubt that on account of rise in the price level these houses will fetch higher price but under this scheme the owners of such houses after demolishing their houses will be deprived of their means of livelihood The Government's plea that the owners can easily bear the cost of demolition and removal of malba in view of the fair price they would get for their houses, does not appeal to them because they are afraid that they may be deprived of their property under this scheme Besides, under this development scheme the Improvement Trust proposes to build 17 feet wide shops. Such big shops will not be found suitable as people would not be in a position to put large stock in these shops for want of capital. Business market is already very dull in Amritsar on account of its close proximity to the border and nobody is willing to make big investment in any business. It will be remembered that sometime back the Municipal Committee Amritsar constructed six feet wide shops at Chowk Fawara. I think there seems to be no sense in building such spacious shops in Amritsar where people are shy to invest big capital. I would suggest that these shops should not be more than 10 or 12 feet wide and this dimension would be found quite enough to put up a good show. The people are already under financial embarrassment and the fact that the Improvement Trust will also take 3 years to give compensation will aggravate their difficulties. The Government will be well advised to enforce this scheme within the period of six months and take steps to give the payment of compensation as early as possible. If land for land is given they should be advanced loans to enable them to take up the work of construction in hand. They will be able to refund this amount of loans as soon as they begin to derive income from the rent of these houses They should be supplied bricks and other material on controlled rate. It is no use building magnificent buildings in a town which is very close to the border. Such buildings should be built in big cities like Bombay and Calcutta. But imagine the pity of it that

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the Government has thought fit to enforce the Development Scheme in a town which has lost its importance on account of its close proximity to the border. However, I do not oppose this scheme but would make this suggestion that the Government should not levy betterment fee when this scheme is completed. The Government should give extensive financial assistance to these people in the form of loans so that they may be able to stand on their own legs.

I also want to urge upon the Government to have inquiries made into cases in which the debris has been removed so that the owners may be able to get some compensation for it. In the end I repeat that the Government should treat the people of Katra Jaimal Singh with special consideration and try to relieve their distress as far as possible by giving them land for land, by giving them loans and thus helping them to stand on their feet once again. They will ever remain grateful to this Government, if this much is done for them.

Pandit Faqir Chand (Ex-Member, West Punjab Assembly representing West Lahore Division, General, Rural) *(Hindi)*: Madam, I am quite in agreement with the views expressed by Pandit Amar Nath and Bibi Parkash Kaur on this Bill. It would be a grave injustice to the people, to be affected by it, to pass this measure without giving public opinion adequate opportunity to express itself clearly on it. So I urge the Government not to show undue haste to put this Bill on the Statute Book and agree to its circulation for eliciting public opinion. It appears that my suggestion has found favour with the hon. Minister-in-charge since he has noted it down.

It is a matter for deep regret, Madam, that neither the Central Government nor our own Government has so far cared to give any help to the victims of 1947 riots of whom a very large majority belongs to Amritsar. These people have been rendered shelterless as a result of their properties having been burnt down and are in no better condition than the refugees from West Punjab. Instead of giving grants and loans to them for reconstructing their houses, it is proposed to deprive them of the land on which once stood their ancestral houses. No doubt the provision for compensation has been made but it is to be paid after three years Can anyone, who possesses a sympathetic and feeling heart, give his approval to this sort of treatment towards the people who have been without any shelter for the last three and a half years? I endorse the suggestion

of Bibi Parkash Kaur that representatives of the sufferers of Katra Jaimal Singh, Katra Sher Singh and Katra Shradhanand should be called and given a hearing before enacting this measure. If the Government is really anxious to alleviate their suffering and respect their feelings it must defer the consideration of this Bill and circulate it to elicit public opinion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, the object of this Bill is to vest in an Improvement Trust powers to acquire properties in the damaged areas of Amritsar which were the scene of rioting in, 947 with a view to developing those areas by reconstructing houses according to new plans. The Improvement Trust to be created under the proposed Act will have the power to execute the scheme by selling away the total land and the debris available and the money thus realized will constitute the income of the scheme. In this connection I am reminded of an anecdote about Sir Harnam Singh of Jullundur. One day when he was sitting in the lawn of his bungalow he saw a stranger sweeping and cleaning his premises. He asked him about the where-abouts of the old sweeper who had been working for his family for a very long time. That fellow gave an evasive reply and told Sardar Sahib that the old sweeper would return in a few days' time. After two or three days, when Sir Harnam Singh noticed that the old sweeper was not to be found and the same man was working in his place, he sent for him and directed him to disclose the truth of the matter. That fellow told Sardar Sahib that his house had been sold by the old sweeper to him. On being asked how much price he had paid, he replied that he had to pay Rs 500 as the price of Sardarji's house. Madam, this is exactly what is happening in the case of these damaged houses. Without their owners being aware of it, the houses are being sold. Without consulting the persons concerned, it is being proposed to dispose of their properties.

It is laid down in clause 13 (i) that 'after the statement has been notified under the preceding section, the collector shall make an award, apportioning compensation, in the manner hereinafter prescribed, among all the persons known or believed to be interested in the land, of whom or of whose claims he has information whether or not they have appeared before him. This clearly shows that against the decision of the officer whom the Government will appoint to assess compensation there cannot be any appeal nor can the persons interested secure the services of a 'Vakil'. The Government will itself be the purchaser as well

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

as the arbiter of the price. Moreover, Madam, the Constitution of India enjoins that no body shall be deprived of his property without an adequate and proper compensation. But in the proposed Bill there is no provision for an appeal to the law courts against the decision of the Collector. I have read the posters that have been published on behalf of the owners of these damaged areas. One thing is explicitly expressed therein that the people have no longer faith in the professions and doings of this Government. Past experience shows that they are justified in holding this view. Out of the shops of the market our Government had built in Amritsar on American model, 75% are still lying vacant. Amritsar is not a shadow of her pre-partition self.

Then, Madam, it is just possible our Government is anxious to send abroad some officer like Mr P. N. Thapar on the pretext of finding technicians for rebuilding the damaged areas of Amritsar. I would not be surprised if some lawyers of Amritsar might have approached it for this purpose, thinking that the scheme in question would give them an apportunity to visit foreign countries free of cost.

The provisions of the Bill relating to the acquisition of all properties in the damaged areas and those aimed at entrusting the Improvement Trust with the work of plannin and construction of new buildings are most unfair. The right of the people to construct houses of the type ermitted by their means should on no account be taken away from them. The Improvement Trust might build houses too costly for their financial position. The difference in the income and the cost of the scheme will, under this Bill, have to be met by the people themselves. They have made many representations to the Government against the 'loot' that is proposed to be legalized through this Bill.

There is another matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. If it is really desirous of improving the condition of victims of riots in Amritsar, it should make a provision for compensating them out of the evacuee property for the land that is taken away from them for constructing roads, parks etc. Out of the total property in Katra Jaimal Singh, 40% belongs to evacuees.

This only shows that the Government wishes to benefit at the cost of the distressed people, some favourites who may be working as

officers, contractors or camp-followers. It is a very bad motive indeed. I can very well understand that if and when due to some misfortune the buildings of a city get demolished steps should be taken by the Government to improve and reconstruct the city according to a regular plan. In such a circumstance the Government is justified in acquiring lands for public gardens and widening the public roads and streets. It has every right to ask the people to construct new and beautiful buildings according to the plan given by the Government. But all this should not be done through the expensive and top-heavy agency of the Government but by affording facilities to the people concerned by providing them with necessary building materials. These distressed people are not in a position to pay any expenditure that may be incurred by the Government for them. They do not approve of this idea of the Government. Here is a poster published by these people in which it is stated that this Government is following in the footsteps of the Englishman and is no better than his Government. They feel that the ways of this Government are exactly as bureaucratic as those of the old foreign Government. It has no sympathy for the public and no value for their money. They are under the impression that the Government is not giving them a fair deal when it makes them expend so much on the reconstruction of Amritsar without giving this place the privilege of being the Capital of the province According to them money is to be wasted on this border town as this money is to come from the people and not from the Government The Government does not like the idea of spending its own money on building the Capital near the border and is building one at Chandigarh. I would therefore request that the feelings of these people should not be disregarded and they should be asked to do things ccording to their means and conditions. If they cannot pay for the service of the American experts and architects and the high salaries of big officers, they should not be forced to get things done by these people They may be given a plan and may be required to construct buildings according to that plan. If somebody fails to act according to the instructions, the building constructed by him may be pulled down by all means. But it is certainly not fair to ask him to pay the amount that the Government may spend for him. There is a good deal of waste of funds whenever any work is got done by the Government and the public should not be made to suffer for that. And then what is the use of spending such colossal sums of money at Amritsar? I find that after the partition so many big shops are lying vacant. I am afraid the fate of this Government

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

endeavour is going to be the same as that of the Dharam Singh Market. Here the distressed people have another grievance and it should not be brushed aside in a careless manner. The land on which the people have made their "tharas" is being acquired for widening the roads and it is said that the compensation would be given to deserving cases in course of six or seven years. This is a very unjust act on the part of the Government as the distressed people cannot wait for years for compensation.

Madam, I feel that nothing definite has been placed before us. We have been only told that plans would be made, an improvement trust would be set up and such and such things would be done but nothing cut and dried is placed before us for our consideration. To me it looks as if we are being befooled. I, therefore, submit that this Bill be withdrawn for the present at any rate. The Government may think over it once again in case it survives the party meeting which is to be held to morrow at 7 P M.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*): Madam, this Bill which is before us is a replica of the Ordinance that was promulgated by H E. the Governor. This Bill also provides that all acts done by the Government under the Ordinance should be validated. I think that this is not fair to the people. The people should not be made to put up with any treatment that may be meted out to them This Bill does not care for the public feelings at all and gives full protection to the Government, the Trust and the Collector. If the Government officers were honest and had impressed the people with their good intentions things would have been different. But unfortunately the people do not think well of them and are full of complaints. In such circumstances there is no justification for giving any protection to them or for that matter to the Government which is behaving like a dictator.

Madam, I have not been able to understand the position that the Government has taken up so far as removal of debris is concerned. As a matter of fact one who removes the debris should enter into a contract with the owner of the place. If I am the owner of a house and I ask a Mazdoor to remove the debris from my premises I am to agree to the compensation that is to be given to the Mazdoor. Here the Government performs the function of a Mazdoor in so far as it

arranges the removal of debris but then it does not even consult me about the question of compensation. It is some thing very strange and quite unheard of. Here is a contract the terms of which are being imposed on one of the parties.

In this case, the Municipal Committee or the Government which will gain in a way by the removal of debris, will not contribute anything towards the cost of its removal. Those poor persons whose buildings were damaged by fire or on some other account, will be called upon to pay all the expenses. This will be the case of a labourer dictating terms to his master.

Then, Madam, it has been provided in this Bill that the amount of compensation fixed by the Government will be final and it can not be questioned in a court of law. Now-a-days it is noticed that the Governments pass defective or illegal Acts. The affected persons have to go to the High Courts or the Supreme Court to obtain their verdict about their legality. In many cases these courts have held the Acts to be ultra vires of the Constitution. In order to prevent the people from obtaining the verdicts of these courts there is a general tendency these days to lay down in the Bills that their provisions can not be questioned in a court of law. During the Martial Law days, late Pt. Moti Lal Nehru used to say that the Rowlatt Act denied the right of argument, the right of an advocate to appear in a case and the right of appeal. Such things could be understood during the period of foreign rule, but these days, when the popular Governments are in power, the public should be given the maximum facilities of questioning the legality of Acts. If the Government or its Officers Act in an illegal manner, it should be open to a person to move the High Court or the Supreme Court. In this Bill may I know whether the proposed development of damaged areas is intended for the benefit of the Government or the people of Amritsar, whose buildings were damaged or burnt during the riots? If it is intended for the benefit of the people the Government should have been more sympathetic towards them. Some of my hon. Friends have narrated the feelings of the people on this matter. A deputation met me too. Respectable persons, who constituted that deputation told me that when they called at the residences of hon. Ministers at Simla, they were told that they could do what they liked but the Government would effect no alteration in this Bill. On hearing such things I begin to think whether this Bill is intended for the benefit of the people or the Government. I know

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

that those people whose properties the Government propose to acquire or requisition under this Bill are very much perturbed. To justify such acts, the Government usually put forth many reasons which are in fact far removed from the truth. If the hon. Minister had personally visited the affected areas, he would have realized that the information supplied to him by his officers is not based on facts. In that case a much better Bill than this would have been brought forward. In an explanation to one of the Clauses of this Bill, it has been provided that the Government would assess the cost of removing the debris or demolishing the structure and it shall be recovered from the owner thereof. Before acting in this manner the person concerned should have been consulted. No valid contract can be executed unless it is based on the consent of those who are parties to it. In the present case, it has been laid down that the award given by the Government will be final. Nobody will have the right to question the propriety or otherwise of the compensation determined by the award. I have not been able to understand the object which the Govenment wishes to accomplish. Does it want to provide wider roads or better houses? In my opinion this Bill will merely provide employment to a few persons. Improvement Trusts have been entrusted with the execution of such work. I have personal knowledge about the work done by the Improvement Trust, Ludhiana. They do nothing except preparing schemes on paper. I undestand that Government propose to dissolve the Ludhiana Improvement Trust. What work will these Trusts do under this Bill? Instead of doing any good to the public or developing damaged areas, these will provide employment to a few more persons.

In this case, I am reminded of an old saying. It says that a clever money lender, while settling accounts with some poor man, said that 3 multiplied by $1\frac{1}{2}$ was equal to $7\frac{1}{2}$. The poor man was not in a position to challenge the statement of the money lender. This is the position of the Government *vis-a vis* the property holders. Like that money lender, it would tell them that 3 multiplied by $1\frac{1}{2}$ is equal to $7\frac{1}{2}$. It can even make it equal to 15 if it so desires. It has been provided in this Bill that the compensation for the property would be given after the assessment of its value and scrutiny thereof by the Government. I am afraid the assessment will go against the property holders. For instance, if a property is worth Rs. 10,000, the Government would show expenses amounting to more than that sum. It would say that

Rs. 2,000 has been spent on the removal of debris, Rs. 2,000 spent on the Trust etc., etc. In this way, the property holders will actually have to pay something to the Government in stead of getting any thing from it. I am reminded of an instance of the united Punjab. In 1946 or 1947 an officer was asked to assess the value of a motor car whose model was of 1937. The officer calculated the depreciation in value at the rate of 10 per cent per annum and thus he arrived at the conclusion that after ten years, its depreciation was 100 per cent and hence the car was not worth anything at that time. But he was told that since the body of the car was still intact, some price must be fixed. This is how the assessment of this property would be made. What I am afraid of is that some poor people will be victimised for the sake of some influential persons. We hear that the value of the properties will be assessed less than their real value and the expenses of the removal of debris will be inflated. At that time, the poor people will be victimised. Ours is a very clever and shrewd Government. During the last October Session, it introduced Municipal (Amendment) Bill. But since it was not desired to hold elections, the Bill was shelved at the last stage. Similar was the case with regard to District Boards (Amendment) Bill. Now in the present case, the Government is acting in a different manner. I know that people outside are putting great pressure on the hon. Members belonging to Amritsar, namely Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar, Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur and Pandit Faqir Chand. We have also been approached by the people in this matter. They say, "If you want to pass the Bill, do it for our good and not to our detriment." I, therefore, submit that, even if the Bill has been introduced by mistake, the Government can rectify the wrong by some other way. For this purpose, it should call a round-table conference of the affected property holders of Amritsar, the hon. Members belonging to that place and the representatives of the Government. At that conference, some formula which should be acceptable to all, should be devised. If such a formula is devised, we shall support the measure. I want that Amritsar should regain its importance and it should flourish. But the method envisaged in this Bill would only prejudice its importance all the more. This Bill is not a political issue. I, therefore, submit that we should not pass it in haste. The Government can call the affected property holders telegraphically and then, within two or three days, a conference can be held to devise some satisfatory solution. It would be better if this Bill is passed after that. In this way, the Government would not acquire a bad name, and the people will be benefitted.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South-East Multan, Division General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, so far the discussion on this Bill has been carried on the basis that it will apply only to Amritsar. But this is a misconception. As is evident from this Bill, it will extend to the whole of Punjab. From this point of view, I think, greater amount of attention should be paid to this Bill than has so far been paid. At present, there are two Acts regarding the acquisition of property in the State. First is the Land Acquisition Act under which the owner whose property is compulsorily acquired is paid 15 per cent premium along with the value of the property. I do not want to go into other sections of this Act just now. I want to point out only this that the Collector under that Act assesses the value of the property on the basis of the value during the previous year. These buildings in Amritsar which are now damaged were grand buildings previously Thus their owners can, as a matter of right, claim under the existing law their value plus 15 per cent premium. The second method of acquisition of land is that of the Improvement Trust Act. This Act is meant for the improvement of big cities. Under it, the Trust has to pay the full value of the building which is acquired by the Trust, in the public interest, such as the widening of a road etc. Now I think, the rights and privileges of the property owners guaranteed under these two Acts are sought to be bypassed by passing this Bill. Under the Land Acquisition Act, the owners can take the matter to the High Court, for judicial decision. But under this Bill, they have been deprived of the right of any legal action.

In this connection I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that this Bill tends to deprive the people of their right to seek the protection of normal laws of the land and in this respect it is hard to them. The second thing is that those who are affected by the present legislation are unable to find anything useful in it. No provision has been made which may be called advantageous to them. As a matter of fact this Bill has been conceived at on a unilateral basis. The powers that the Improvement Trust Act bestows in the normal course are going to be by passed. Such persons who suffered damage have been waiting for help for the last four years but even on moral basis no help has been given to them. They have now been asked to go on waiting for three years more. This means that for seven or eight years they remain without any help from the Government. Another thing which the hon. Members must have

noted is that the people who have suffered in such areas would like to have compensation in accordance with the provisions of the contract law. They, in fact, want specific enforcement and not cash compensation. In accordance with the principle of specific performance, compensation can be had on a decree basis. In this Bill there is no mention of specific performance. There may be an opinion of getting a specific performance but it was necessary that the enforcement were made mandatory and not merely optional. This is a special case and it should have received sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Government. Another thing which I would like to point out is that the definition of 'damaged areas' is too wide. Its scope can be extended to any part of Punjab. It has not been confined to such areas only as have been actually damaged by the communal riots. If this Bill is passed in its present form it would mean bypassing the Land Acquisition Act and the Improvement Trust Act. With these words I resume my seat.

Mehta Ranbir Singh. (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General. Rural) (*Hindi*) Madam, every one knows the destruction that buildings and houses suffered at Amritsar and Lahore during the riots about four years back. After about two or three years the Government thought of promulgating an Ordinance and now, at last, it has deemed it proper to bring in a Bill on that matter. Still if a person lost in the morning comes home in the evening he cannot be considered as lost. Thank God that after all our Government has realized the predicament in which the sufferers in the damaged areas were placed. Still we must consider what steps our Government is going to take in this matter. It has been stated by the hon. Minister that so long as we have no records how can we know the property owned by Muslim evacuees and the local persons? It is my considered opinion that even if the Municipal records have been destroyed by fire, we can find out by other means the ownership of such property and can gather other relevant data. I am inclined to think that the Government itself is not sincere in its efforts otherwise it is not difficult to get the necessary imformation from other sources. I think the Government has evil designs.

Deputy Speaker : No insinuation please.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, my submission is that the intentions of the Government are not proper. As far as this matter

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

is concerned, some of the hon. Members have said that in Amritsar there were only forty per cent Muslims and sixty per cent non-Muslims, while in fact there were about eighty per cent Muslims. In Lahore the Government of Pakistan undertook to re-construct the damaged areas long ago. As a matter of fact it has built beautiful buildings. It is only after seeing them that our Government thought of following suit. In Lahore, every one knows, not eighty but ninety five per cent houses belonged to the non-Muslim evacuees. Of course the attitude of the Pakistan Government is transigent in its dealings with India on evacuee property. But so far as its work in reconstructing the damaged areas is concerned it has given a lead to our Government. As regards evacuee property issue every one knows that the attitude of the Government of Pakistan is not based upon any just and fair principles. Their point of view is quite wrong and our Government should not try to follow in their footsteps in this matter It is only in other spheres that we should learn the good points of Pakistan. At present the real problem that required careful consideration is how best to render real help to those whose houses have been damaged. But I am sorry to note that this Bill fails to render any material help to them. In this connection I am reminded of a story. A person carrying a bundle of glass bangles on his head met a friend who gave a mild lathi blow on his bundle and asked him what it contained. The person carrying the bundle replied, 'please, give one blow more and the bundle will have nothing left in it". Similar is the case with those living near the border. They have already received blows and the Government is going to give them another.

Sardar Ajit Singh : I think the hon. Member himself must have given such blows to them.

Sardar Bachan Singh : No, he being an urbanite is unable to do so. It must be persons like you and me.

The Assembly then adjourned till 2 p. m on Thursday; 3rd. April 1951.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

3rd April, 1951.

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OFFICIAL REPORT

GOVT. PUNJAB

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Tuesday, 3rd April 1951.

Ray's—Simla Price 6-14-0

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIRST PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 3rd April, 1951.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at 2 p.m. of the Clock.

ABSENCE OF THE HON. SPEAKER.

Secretary: I have to inform the House that the hon. Speaker is unavoidably absent. The Deputy Speaker will, therefore, preside.

Deputy Speaker (Shrimati Shanno Devi Sehgal) took the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PURCHASE OF JEEP CARS FOR GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN IN THE STATE.

***2831 Sardar Bachan Singh**: Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) whether any jeep cars were purchased by the Government for the Grow More Food Campaign in the State ; if so, their number together with the date of each purchase ;

(ii) the number of these Jeep cars in each district ;

(iii) the cost of their maintenance and repairs in each district till 31-1-51 and the total mileage run by each jeep car till 31-1-51 since its being put on the roads ;

(iv) the dates when each of these jeeps was first put on the road in each district ;

(b) (i) the period for which each jeep was used for the grow more food campaign till 31-1-51 and the total mileage run by it ;

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(ii) the period for which it was used for other purposes and the total mileage run by it ;

(c) (i) the strength of the Grow More Food Campaign staff in each district in the State ;

(ii) the expenditure on this staff for January, 1951 in the State ;

(iii) whether it is a fact that the officers of this Department are permitted to do revenue work ;

(d) the total expenditure on the Grow More Food Campaign Department in the state for December, 1950 ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand :

(a) (i) (ii) (iii) and (iv)	...	Yes Statement No. I is laid on the Table[1].
(b) (i) and (ii)	...	Statement No. II is laid on the Table[1].
(c) (i) (ii) and (iii)	...	Statement No. III is laid on the Table.[1]
(d)	...	Rs. 50,811-0-6 were spent in districts during December, 1950. This includes the pay and Travelling Allowance of the Grow More Food Staff in districts.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS OPENED IN THE STATE.

***2909. Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of new Primary Schools opened in the State during the year 1950-51 ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand : Number of new Primary Schools opened during the year 1950-51 : 178.

[1]Kept in the Library.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know whether the Government has any idea of opening more Primary Schools in the State in view of the fact that the number disclosed by the hon. Minister is inadequate ?

Minister : The Government wants to increase this number.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know if the Government has any scheme under consideration regarding the number of new Schools to be opened each year ?

Minister : I hope ..

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state separately the number of schools opened by the local bodies, the number of private schools and the number of Government Schools ?

Minister : I am sorry this information cannot be given at the moment. If fresh notice is given, I will supply the information.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : How much time will be required, at the present speed of opening new schools, to provide one primary school within every area of 5 square miles according to the policy of the Government ?

Minister : It is a question of Mathematics.

Shrimati Sita Devi : My question was as to how many schools were proposed to be opened next year, but the hon. Minister replied that he hoped..... ...Will he be pleased to tell me the exact number of schools to be opened next year ?

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should herself see whether her supplementary has any connection with the main question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of aided and unaided schools opened in 1950-51 ?

Minister : I require fresh notice for this question.

PROVIDENT FUNDS OF TEACHERS OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS FROM PAKISTAN.

***2911. Shrimati Sita Devi** : Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken by the Government in

[Shrimati Sita Devi]

getting back the Provident Funds of Teachers of the Private Schools from Pakistan Government ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand : The Provident Fund Accounts of displaced teachers from the West Punjab were lying in the following Banks :—

(1) Post Office Savings Bank.

(2) Co-operative Banks.

(3) Imperial Bank of India.

The amounts in the Post Office Savings Banks have been withdrawn by the persons concerned in almost all the cases.

As regards the accounts in other banks, the Government of India in the Ministry of Rehabilitation, are taking steps to have the amount realized from the authorities concerned in the Punjab (Pakistan). The Provident Fund Accounts of Teachers in the Co-operative Banks in the Nankana Sahib Tehsil of Sheikhupura District (Pakistan) have been transferred to Punjab (India) and payments are being made to the teachers concerned who apply for the same to the Inspector of Schools, Jullundur Division.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know as to how much time will be taken by the Government in getting back the Provident Funds of our teachers from Pakistan ?

Minister : It is very difficult to say.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact that a number of teachers have represented to the Government that so long as their Provident Funds are not received from Pakistan, they should be given some interim relief ?

Minister : Government is trying to get money from Pakistan.

Deputy Speaker : The Hon. Member should not address the Hon. Ministers direct. He should speak to me, and get my permission before putting his question.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know whether the Government has received any representation from the teachers for the giving of some interim relief to them ?

Minister : Yes.

Deputy Speaker : I cannot allow the Hon. Member to address the Hon. Ministers direct.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I thought Madam, that the hon. Chief Minister was going to reply to my supplementary. But now the hon. Minister for Education has stated that he has received representation from the teachers. I want to know when this representation was received by the Government and what action is proposed to be taken on it ?

Chief Minister : No interim relief can be given so long as the claims of the teachers are not verified from Pakistan.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE BUILDINGS LEFT BY MUSLIMS IN THE STATE.

*2912. **Shrimati Sita Devi** : Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the names and number of school and college buildings left by the Muslims in the State ;

(b) the number of those taken over by the Government for its own purposes together with the reasons therefor ;

(c) the number of those school and college buildings which have been handed over to the Private Societies and the basis on which this has been done ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand :

1. Islamia College, Jullundur.
2. T. I. School, Qadian.
3. Islamia High School, Jullundur City.
4. Madrassatul Binat, Jullundur.

[Minister for Education]

5. Islamia High School, Jullundur Cantt.

6. Islamia High School, Nila Mahal, Jullundur.

7. Islamia High School, Nawanshahr.

8. Islamia High School, Ramdas.

9. Muslim Feroze-ud-Din Girls High School, Amritsar.

10. Hanfia Islamia High School, Ferozepur.

11. Islamia High School, Ferozepur Cantt.

12. Islamia High School, Fazilka.

13. Islamia Primary School for Boys, Nurpur.

14. Islamia Primary School for Girls, Nurpur.

15. Islamia Primary School for Boys, Dharamsala.

16. Khaliquia High School, Kot Abdul Khaliq including residential buildings.

17. Islamia High School, Mahilpur.

18. Islamia High School, Mastiwal.

19. Islamia High School, Bhagala.

20. Islamia High School, Mukerian.

21. C. M. R. High School, Kalanaur.

22. Bryane Meo High School, Nuh.

23. Islamia A. V. Middle School, Kaithal.

24. Islamia A. V. Lower Middle School, Shahabad.

25. Muslim High School for Girls, Ambala Cantt.

26. Muslim High School, Sadhaura.

(b) The following buildings have been taken over by Government for its use :

(i) Islamia College, Jullundur for the Rehabilitation Department.

(ii) Islamia High School, Jullundur—a part of the College Building

(iii) Madrassatul Binat, Jullundur, being used as Widows' Home.

(iv) Islamia High School, Fazilka—occupied by the Military.

(v) Khaliquia High School, Kot Abdul Khaliq—being used as a Training School.

Due to acute shortage of buildings for official use, the above-mentioned evacuee buildings are being used for the purpose as indicated above.

(c) No such buildings have been handed over to the private Societies, except the building of the defunct Madrassatul Binat, which is occupied by private persons. Government is already taking action to get it vacated and to allot it to a displaced school from the West Punjab.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the reasons due to which the Government has taken over those buildings for its own use when there was acute need of these buildings for the educational institutions ?

Minister : They were required for official use.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it a fact that the Government has paid no attention to the fact that at those places there was acute need of these buildings for the local educational institutions ?

Minister : This thing has been kept in view. So far as Jullundur is concerned there are many other institutions in that city.

Deputy Speaker : Next question (*interruption*).

Shri Ram Sharma : I want to know, Madam, if it is parliamentary to say that the attitude of the Deputy Speaker is dictatorial ?

Deputy Speaker : If these words were said by Mehta Ranbir Singh, he should repeat them and if he did not say these words he should say so.

Mehta Rahbir Singh : What I meant was that you did not allow reasonable supplementaries. I did not mean to make you a dictator.

Deputy Speaker : When the Hon. Members ask too many supplementaries on a single question I have to stop them. But it is not proper to say that by doing so I become a dictator. When there is need for a dictator I shall become a dictator. (*Hear, hear.*)

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order. You are saying that you will become a dictator if there is need for that. Where lies the difference when an hon. Member says the same thing ?

Deputy Speaker : This difference lies in the way in which the hon. Member has said this. I don't mean that I wish to become a dictator in the Assembly. But if there is need for dictatorship outside, I repeat that I will become a dictator in Punjab.

FEE CONCESSION TO HARIJAN STUDENTS IN THE STATE.

*2990. **Master Gurbanta Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Harijan students receiving education at the Cantonment Board High School, Jullundur Cantt. :

(b) the number of students enjoying full fee concession under the Harijan Welfare Scheme ;

(c) the names of those schools in the State wherein Harijan students are not enjoying full fee concessions ;

(d) the action, if any, the Government proposes to take against the school authorities who are not allowing full fee concession to Harijan students ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand :

(a) 43.

(b) 43.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS IN COLLEGES OF THE STATE.

***2993. Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :

(a) the total number and names of scheduled caste students who joined the 1st year class in private as well as Government Colleges of the State during the year 1950 ;

(b) the categories of students referred to in part (a) above who have not received the scholarship of Rs. 15/ p. m. fixed for students belonging to the scheduled castes ;

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that S. Swarn Singh scheduled caste student of 1st year class of Khalsa College, Qadian, District Gurdaspur is being called upon by the college authorities for the payment of college fees, etc. ;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, the steps the Government intend to take in the matter ; if not the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand :

(a) Statement is laid on the table[1].

(b) The following categories of students have not received the stipend of Rs. 15/- p. m. fixed for scheduled caste students :—

(1) Science students, as they receive financial assistance from Government of India.

(2) Students belonging to other States.

(3) Students who are already in receipt of other stipends.

(c) Yes.

(d) No, Swarn Singh being a Science student is ineligible for fee concession under the scheme.

[1] Kept in the Library

MIDDLE CLASSES IN THE DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOL, DHARAMKOT RANDHAWA.

*3006. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that representation was made to the hon. Chief Minister for restarting middle classes in the District Board School, Dharamkot-Randhawa, when he visited Dera Baba Nanak two years back and he promised to do so ;

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that many times representations were made to the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Jullundur Division and the District Board, Gurdaspur in this connection ;

(c) if the answers to parts a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

The hon. Thakur Pancham Chand :

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The representations received in this respect were forwarded to the local authorities for consideration. Due to financial stringency, however, the District Board could not re-start the Middle Classes there.

Shrimati Sita Devi : The hon Minister has stated that part I and part II are under consideration. May I know the time by which any decision in this matter will be arrived at.

Chief Minister : When the question of revision of grades is considered the Government has to see many things. It has to take into consideration the views of others who are affected by such revision. This takes time. It is only when all the aspects of the matter are considered that any recommendation is made to the Finance Department for final consideration. I, however, assure the hon. Lady Member that the matter will be decided as soon as possible.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Representation was made long ago. May I know any definite date by which the Government will decide this matter ?

Chief Minister : No definite date can be given.

MEETING TO BE ADDRESSED BY SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAIN AT SIMLA.

***3122. Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) how many days before the date of the last visit of Mr. Jai Parkash Narain to Simla was an application made by his party for permission for him to address a public meeting at the Ridge Maidan, Simla ;

(b) whether the application was rejected, if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The application for permission to hold a meeting on the Ridge on the 3rd December, 1950, was made on the 20th November, 1950.

(b) The permission was refused as the meeting was likely to be attended by a large number of persons and thus would have blocked the thoroughfare and dislocated the traffic.

REVISION IN THE GRADES OF PROVINCIAL EXCISE INSPECTORATE STAFF.

***3130. Shrimati Sita Devi** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the details of the latest demands put forward by the Provincial Excise Inspectorate Staff with regard to the revision of their grades ;

(b) whether any assurances were given to the Inspectorate staff referred to in part (a) above in the pre-partition days and whether the same have been implemented ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Excise Staff has been given the same status as the police staff and Naib-Tahsildars ; if so, whether the grades of the former have also been revised as those of the latter ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) The latest demand of the Excise Inspectorate Staff in regard to the revision of their grades of pay is that these may be raised to the level of the scales of pay of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars.

(b) Part (i) ... There is nothing on record available with this Government to show that any such assurances were given in the pre-partition Punjab.

Part (ii) ... Does not arise.

(c) Parts (i) and (ii) ... The matter is under consideration.

Part (iii) ... In view of the answer to parts (i) and (ii) this question does not arise.

RETURN FROM PAKISTAN OF RELATIONS OF MUSLIM NATIONALS.

*3133. **Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations were received by the Government from the heads of certain Muslim families residing in the State whose relations had migrated to Pakistan during the years 1949 and 1950 praying that they may be allowed to fetch the migrated members of their families from Pakistan ; if so, the number of such applications received from each district of the State during each of the years referred to above ;

(b) (i) the number of the applications sanctioned by the Government permitting permanent settlement of the separated members of the families of the Muslim nationals referred to above during each of the years mentioned in part (a) above and the number of permits issued ;

(ii) the number of the applications rejected during each of the years referred to above together with the reasons therefor ;

(iii) the number of the applications still under consideration ;

(c) (i) whether the application of Maulvi Laqa Ullah Usmani of Panipat was sanctioned for the permanent settlement of the members of his family with him at Panipat, *vide* Chief Secretary's letter No. 2522-GB-9/65188, dated 2-10-1949 ; if so, whether the required permits have been issued ; if not, the reasons thereafor ;

(ii) whether form 'C' for the return of his two younger sons from Pakistan was sent by Ch. Rahman Bakhsh, Member, District Board, Gurgaon and resident of village Oath, Tehsil Ferozepore Jhirka, to the Chief Secretary of the Punjab State Government on or about 14th January, 1951, if so, what action was taken in the matter and whether the required permits have been issued ; if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) (i) the number of the applications forwarded to the Government of India by the State Government for granting permits for the return and permanent resettlement in India of the relatives of the Indian Nationals during the years 1949 and 1950, respectively ;

(ii) the number of applications sanctioned by the Government of India ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) Yes ;

One in 1949 from the Karnal district and one in 1950 from the Ludhiana district excluding those that are given to the Deputy High Commissioner, India in Pakistan according to the procedure prescribed by the Government of India.

(b) (i) As regards the application received in 1949, the State Government were of the view that the wife of the applicant only should be permitted to come to India as the other members of the family were not dependant on the head of the family in India. As regards the application received in 1950, the wife and children of the applicant were permitted to come to India.

As the permits are issued from the offices of the High/Deputy High Commissioners for India in Pakistan the State Government are not aware of the exact number issued by them.

[Chief Minister]

(ii) Nil.

(iii) Nil.

(c) (i) Yes ;

Not yet because the case is still under consideration of the Government of India.

(ii) Form 'C' in duplicate for the return of the wife and 2 sons of Maulvi Laqa Ullah was received in the first week of December, 1950 from Maulvi Laqa Ullah and not from Ch. Rahman Bakhsh.

(d) (i) None in 1949. Two in 1950.

(ii) One. The decision on the other is still awaited.

Sardar Bachan Singh : There are certain Muslims living in our State whose families are in Pakistan. May I know whether the word dependants includes wife only or does it include children also ?

Chief Minister : It includes what it means.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know the definition of dependants ?

Chief Minister : Those who depend for their living on the head of the family are dependants.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Does the Government want such Muslims to remain separate from their families ?

Chief Minister : Madam, it is a hypothetical question. Unless there is a definite case I cannot give a reply.

SUSPENSION OF LICENCES OF ARMS DEALERS IN THE DISTRICT OF AMRITSAR.

*3134. **Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the names of the licenced arms dealers in the District of Amritsar between 1-1-1948 and 30-6-1950 ;

(b) (i) whether the licence of any of them was suspended during 1950; if so, their list together with the date of and reasons for suspension in each case;

(ii) the name of the authority who suspended the licences in the cases referred to in part (b) (i) above;

(c) (i) whether any notice of charge-sheet was given to the licencees referred to in part (b) (i) above after the suspension orders; if so, the nature of the charge-sheet so given;

(ii) when it was given;

(d) (i) whether the persons referred to in part (b) (i) above were given any chance of putting up their defence; if not, the reasons therefor;

(ii) whether their cases have been decided; if so, when and the decision arrived at in each case?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava:

(a) (i) S. Sapuran Singh.

(ii) S. Jaswant Singh.

(iii) Shri Parshotam Lal Sud.

(iv) M/s. C. L. Jaura and Sons.

(v) S. Narain Singh.

(b) (i) Yes, the licences of S. Jaswent Singh were suspended on 8th August, 1950 for reasons of security.

(ii) State Government.

(c) (i) No.

(ii) Does not arise.

(d) (i) No. It is not necessary under the law.

(ii) No. If S. Jaswant Singh makes an application it will be considered by the Government.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it a fact that after cancelling the arms licence of Sardar Jaswant Singh he was not allowed to dispose of fire arms in accordance with the rules ?

Chief Minister : When application is made for that purpose he will be allowed to do so ?

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Is it not a fact that he was not allowed to dispose of the arms here and he had to go to Bombay ?

Chief Minister : An order has been passed and whenever an application is received he will be given permission.

RENEWAL OF THE FIRE ARMS LICENCES IN DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

***3135. Sardar Bachan Singh :** Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of applications for the renewal of the fire-arms licences received by the District Magistrate, Amritsar every month during the year 1950 ;

(b) the number of the applications which were accepted for renewal within one and two months of their receipt in each month ;

(c) (i) the number of the applications which were accepted within three, four and five months respectively of their receipt and the reasons for delay in each case ;

(ii) the number of the applications accepted within a period ranging between 7 and 11 months of their receipt and the reasons for delay ;

(d) the steps, if any, Government propose to take for the early disposal of the renewal applications ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) January	...	406	...
February	...	304	...
March	...	280	...
April	...	418	...
May	...	229	...
June	...	193	...
July	...	186	...
August	...	185	...
September	...	221	...
October	...	261	...
November	...	585	...
December	...	1152	...

		Within one month.	Within two months.
(b) January	...	327	40
February	...	239	35
March	...	233	24
April	...	326	35
May		190	25
June	...	179	8
July	...	171	10
August	...	162	11
September	...	194	17
October	...	231	13
November	...	409	82
December	...	1073	99

C (i) 167, 83 and 41 respectively. Firstly the applications for renewals which were of prohibited bore weapons were sent to the Senior Superintendent of Police for his report and secondly failure on the part of the licencees to present the treasury challans in support of their having paid the renewal fees.

[Chief Minister]

(c) (ii) 18 and 13. Those given in part C(i).

(d) There is no immediate delay. However, Government have issued instructions to District Magistrates that the applications for renewal of licences should be given receipts on presentation of applications and a date should be fixed for disposal. It has been impressed upon District Magistrates that decisions should be given punctually by the dates fixed for the purpose.

DEPOSITING OF FIRE-ARMS IN THE MALKHANA OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

3136. Sardar Bachan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of fire-arms which were desposited in the Malkhana of Amritsar District by the licencees after the cancellation of their arms licences during the years 1949 and 1950 respectively ;

(b) whether any of the persons referred to in part (a) above applied to the District authorities for the handing over of his fire-arms for safe custody to any arms-dealers during each of these years ; if so, the number of these applications accepted in each year ?

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) 1949 ... 292

1950 .. 414

(b) Part I ... None.

Part II ... Does not arise.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly tell us whether the Government is prepared to consider the application of a person who requests for permission to deposit his fire-arms for safe custody with an arms-dealer instead of depositing the same in Malkhana ?

Chief Minister : It is a request for action.

POSTING OF POLICE DURING THE CONGRESS ELECTIONS OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

*3137. **Sardar Bachan Singh** : Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state :—

(a) (i) whether any police remained engaged on duty during the Congress elections of Amritsar District between 9-2-1951 and 17-2-1951 ; if so, the strength of the police force which remained on duty at each of the polling booths ;

(ii) the actual dates on which the police force was employed at each place ;

(b) whether any request was made by the Amritsar District Congress Committee to the District authorities of Amritsar to post the police force at the polling booths ; if so, when ;

(c) (i) the provision of law under which the police force was detailed ;

(ii) whether any costs of this police force have been charged from the Congress Committee ; if not, the reasons therefor.

The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava :

(a) (i) Yes. The Police Force remained on duty as under :—

Majitha : P. S. Majitha ...	1 ASI, 1 HC and 10 FCs including 1 HC and 8 FCs of the Armed Reserve from Lines.
Vil. Chiwinda Devi (P. S. Kathunangal) ..	1 SI, 1 ASI and 7 FCs.
Jandiala : P. S. Jandiala ...	1 ASI, 1 HC and 5 FCs.
Vil. Rayya, P. S. Beas ...	1 HC and 4 FCs.

(ii) 17-2-1951, 13-2-1951, 16-2-1951 and 16-2-1951, respectively.

(b) No, except that an application for the posting of Police Force at Chiwinda Devi, P. S. Kathunangal was made by Th. Balwant Singh, Secretary, District Congress Committee, Amritsar.

(c) (i) Under Section 31 of the Police Act.

[Chief Minister]

(ii) No, because the Police was employed for the maintenance of Law and Order.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Will the Chief Minister kindly state whether he is aware that the Secretary of the Amritsar District Committee twice brought to the notice of the authorities concerned that the law and order at the polling booths was in danger of being disturbed and, therefore, he made a request for the posting of the police there ?

Chief Minister : I require notice for this.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether the report regarding the breach of law and order was lodged in the police station or was it submitted to the Deputy Commissioner or the hon. Minister ?

Chief Minister : I think, if any report was sent in this regard, then it must have been submitted first to the District Authorities who will forward it to the Government in due course.

BOATMEN AT HARIKE AND OTHER FERRIES OF DISTRICT AMRITSAR.

***2796. Sardar Sajjan Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the maximum limit of working hours fixed under the existing rules for the boatmen at Harike and other ferries in the Amritsar District ;

(b) the time fixed for their daily working at Harike ;

(c) (i) whether these boatmen are included in the list of work charge establishment ;

(ii) the wages fixed per month for each of them at Harike ;

(d) whether they are entitled to any pension or gratuity on retirement ;

(e) (i) whether it is a fact that they are made to work as watchmen of the boats of the boat bridge during nights at the Harike ferry on alternate days ;

(ii) if the answer to part (e) (i) above be in the affirmative, whether they are paid extra wages for their night duties, if not, the reasons therefor ;

(iii) the nightly hours of duty referred to in part (e) (i) above ;

(f) whether the boatmen are supplied any uniforms at Government cost ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(a) The maximum limit of working hours for each boatman is 8 hours, but in addition to such duties, each boatman is required to sleep at the ferry site on alternate days, so that in case of emergency, the chowkidar might awake them.

(b) In summer from 7 A. M. to 12 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 5 P.M. In winter from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.

(c) (i) Yes.

(ii) Rs. 60/- p. m.

(d) No.

(e) (i) No.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) Does not arise.

(f) No.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister kindly state whether these boatmen are paid for the overtime which they are required to put in during the night at ferries ?

Minister : No over time or extra duty is taken from them.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the duty required of the boatmen at night at ferries is inclusive of the 8 hours work, which is usually taken from all sorts of labourers working in P. W. D. and other Departments ?

Minister : I have already stated that no extra duty is taken from them at night.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that the boatmen are not allowed to go home at night lest some emergency should arise and their services might be required. May I know whether the hours which they spend at night on the ferries, though in sleeping, are included in the usual duty hours ? If so, whether any compensation is paid in lieu of that ?

Minister : No payment can be made to the boatmen for sleeping at night at the ferries.

UNIFORMS OF OCTROI CHAPRASIS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

***2797. Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that octroi chaprasis of certain 1st and 2nd grade municipal committees are supplied with uniforms and belts as marks of identification during their duty hours ; if so, the names of such municipal committees ;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce a uniform policy in this matter throughout the State ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

Parliamentary Secretary (Shri Dev Raj Sethi) :

(a) Many Municipal Committees provide the uniforms and belts referred to by the hon. Member.

(b) Government do not propose to impose any policy in this connection, but prefer to leave it to the Municipal Committees to decide whether their octroi Charpasis, etc., should wear uniforms etc., or not.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the Parliamentary Secretary please tell us, if a quarrel takes place at an octroi post, between the octroi peon and the public, how will the latter recognise the former, if he is not wearing a uniform? Is the Government in a position to ask the local body concerned to provide uniforms to its peons ?

Parliamentary Secretary : Local bodies are independent and autonomous in their internal matters and Government cannot interfere or impose any rules upon them.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know whether any uniforms are being provided to the peons of the Municipalities ?

Parliamentary Secretary : If the hon. Member gives notice regarding a particular case, necessary information will be collected.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

*2798. **Sardar Sajjan Singh ;** Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of Village Panchayats in each tehsil of Amritsar District on 15-8-1947 and 1-2-1951, respectively ;

(b) the number of Villlage Panchayats of which elections were held more than three years ago in each tehsil referred to above together with the reasons therefor ;

(c) (i) whether any of the Panchayats in the Amritsar District continued functioning even after 3 years of its election ; if so, the names of such Panchayats ;

(ii) the provision of law under which these were allowed to function after the lapse of 3 years ;

(d) whether the Government proposes to hold new elections for the Panchayats referred to in part (c) (i) above ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(a)

Name of the tehsil		on 15-8-1947	1-2-1951
Amritsar	...	99	117
Ajnala	...	66	71
Tarn Taran	...	107	97
Patti	...	Not known as before partition it formed a part of Lahore District.	77

(b)

Amritsar	..	26
Tarn Taran	...	18
Patti	...	5

The elections became overdue as those were due at a time when staff was inadequate. Election work is now in full swing and it is hoped that the same will be completed within the next quarter.

(c) (i) Yes, 49 Panchayats, whose names are laid on the Table[1], remained functioning beyond three years after previous election.

(ii) Section 6 (5) of the Punjab Village Panchayat Act 1939.

(d) Yes. Election work is in progress.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister kindly state the reasons for an increase or a fall in the number of village Panchayats of the Amritsar District ?

Minister : This is a normal phenomena. Sometimes the number of panchayats increases and sometimes it falls. But if the hon. Member wants any information in regard to a particular panchayat in a certain village, then I can procure it for him.

[1] Kept in the Library.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know what has been done by the Government during the last three years to establish more panchayats and popularise them in the State ?

Minister : This question does not arise out of the main question.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : Will the hon. Minister kindly state the steps taken by the Government to bring about an increase in the number of panchayats in the Amritsar District ?

Minister : I think only the increase in the number of panchayats in the district does not add to the efficiency of the Department. But if the present panchayats carry out their duties honestly and efficiently in providing facilities and justice to the people according to the powers vested in them, then I think they have played their part well and it does not matter if the number does not increase.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : The hon. Minister has stated that steps have been taken to increase the number of the panchayats in the State, may I know as to what steps have been taken in this direction ?

Minister : Steps have been and are being taken to improve the working of the panchayats.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : In what respects has the working of the panchayats been improved ?

Minister : Efforts are being made to impress upon the panchayats to carry out all the duties which they are required to perform.

Sardar Bachan Singh : May I know whether or not it is the policy of the Government to spread a net-work of panchayats in every nook and corner of the State ?

Minister . Yes, it is the policy of the Government to set up as many panchayats as possible.

Deputy Speaker : Before I call the next question, I would like to request the hon. Members not to do any cross-examining while asking supplementaries. They should not lose sight of the fact that it is not a court but a Legislative Assembly.

————

APPLICATION FOR REFUND OF RENT AT SIMLA.

*3120. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state :—

(a) the number of applications pending for refund of rent realised by P. W. D., Simla Provincial Division ;

(b) the date of the oldest application ;

(c) whether some time limit has been fixed for the disposal of such applications ;

(d) what steps, if any, have been taken for their early disposal ?

The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh :

(a) None

(b) Does not arise

(c) No time limit is fixed. The refund is allowed to the individuals concerned without even receiving application for the same.

(d) The hand receipts are prepared for the refund of the excess amounts recovered and sent on to the Sub-Divisional Officer concerned duly passed for payment. Necessary refunds are also allowed in monthly rent rolls.

NON-PAYMENT OF INCREMENT Etc. TO A NAIB-TAHSILDAR.

*2956. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state :—

(a) with reference to my starred question No. *2061 regarding the outstanding dues to Shri Bhagwan Sahai, Naib-Tahsildar, Loharu (Hissar) whether the payments due to him have since been made ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Naib-Tahsildar was asked by the authorities concerned to explain, why a question about his dues was asked in the Assembly and why he should not be punished for that ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

(a) Yes, partly. Attempts are being made to clear off the arrears as soon as possible.

(b) Yes. He was asked to explain in the light of Government instruction issued in this connection.

MOTOR STAND, JULLUNDUR.

*3119. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the area meant for the Ludhiana motor stand near the Railway Station, Jullundur City, is prohibited to the ordinary man wanting to work there as a coolie ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Kartar Singh :

Yes. This was done as a large number of thefts occurred in the premises.

NEHRI AREA OF LAND OF CERTAIN VILLAGES IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

*2794. **Sardar Sajjan Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) the Nehri area of land of villages Mastgarh, Nurwala, Tehsil Patti, District Amritsar, respectively before and after the partition ;

(b) whether any part of this area of land was irrigated by the water courses passing through territory now in Pakistan ; if so, the total of such areas of each of these villages ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the water courses passing through the Pakistan territory have been stopped by the Pakistan authorities ; if so, the steps if any, taken by the Government for the irrigation of this area ;

[Sardar Sajjan Singh]

(d) whether the area of land referred to in part (a) above was valued as irrigated area at the time of allotment under the quasi-permanent scheme ;

(e) (i) whether any representation by the allottees of village Mastgarh which was forwarded by me *vide* my letter No. 100, dated 24-1-1951 (registered) to the Director-General Rehabilitation, Jullundur, was received by him ;

(ii) whether in this representation the allottees complained that the area referred to in part (a) above has turned Barani but was wrongly classed as irrigated for allotment purposes ;

(iii) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

The hon. **Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :**

(a)

Name of the village.	Nehri area before partition.	Nehri area after partition.
1. Mastgarh.	809 acres.	809 acres.
2. Nurwala.	131 acres.	131 acres.

(b) No.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) (i) The representation is not traceable.

(ii) Does not arise in view of (e) (i) above.

(iii) The last date for the receipt of such representations being 11th of November, 1950, the representation dated 24-1-1951 was obviously time-barred and as such ought normally have been filed.

DEMANDS OF PUNJAB TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION.

*2957. **Shri Ram Sharma** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the demands in brief put forward by the Punjab Technicians Association ;

(b) whether they were considered by the Government ; if so, with what result ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) Briefly stated the demands put forward by the Punjab Technicians Association are as follows :—

(i) Scales of pay of the Technical Staff employed in the Industries Department may be revised.

(ii) $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ temporary increase granted to technical staff may also be granted to persons who were not granted this increase in ordinary course.

(iii) Certain incumbents in the Department who have put in 10 to 15 years service may be confirmed.

(iv) Technical posts in the Industries Department may be treated at par with the clerical staff, and

(v) A gradation list of all the technical employees in the Department may be prepared and all the promotions in the Department may be made according to that list.

(b) Yes. All these demands were considered by Government and following is the result in respect of each of these demands :—

(i) The question of the revision of the scales of pay of Technical staff in the Industries Department is under the active consideration of Government and all possible efforts are being made to arrive at a decision as soon as possible.

(ii) Government are not aware of any specific case in which the temporary increase of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent granted to

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technical staff in lieu of the revision of grades was not being given.

(iii) Since the posts in question were temporary only, the incumbents working against them could not be confirmed.

(iv) When the grades of Technical posts in the Department are revised, it will bring these posts at par with other clerical posts.

(v) Since recruitment to technical posts in the Department was made on merits and special qualifications were required for various posts, it was not practicable to prepare a gradation list of the Department and to make promotions in accordance with it. For example a Tailor, howsoever senior may be, could not be appointed to the post of a Mechanic and *vice versa*.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : In view of the demand already referred to by the hon. Minister to the effect that certain incumbents in the department who have put in 10 to 15 years' service may be confirmed, may I know if it is a fact that according to the standing orders of the Government regarding the industrial workers the technicians who have put in 10 to 15 years' service should not continue to remain temporary for a long time but should be confirmed instead ?

Minister : I have already stated in my reply that since the posts were temporary the incumbents working against them could not be confirmed.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : May I know if it is a fact that according to the definition given in the Industrial employment Act for the workers classed as "Temporary" only those can be deemed as temporary, who do work of a "Temporary" nature. Does the Government expect this House to understand that all these technical men have been doing work of a temporary nature for the whole period of 10 to 15 years ? Can you call such a task as temporary

that can be continued for such a long duration, and which is still continuing ?

LAND BELONGING TO MUSLIM EVACUEES IN POSSESSION OF LESSEES AND MORTGAGEES

*3097. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the total area of each grade of land belonging to Muslim Evacuees and in possession of the lessees and mortgagees in each district in the State ;

(b) the amount of money for which the land referred to in part (a) above is mortgaged in each district ;

(c) whether the Government has so far taken over all or any portion of land specified in part (a) above for allotment to the displaced landholders ; if not, the reasons therefor and the steps the Government propose to take in this connection ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) A statement showing the total evacuees area mortgaged with possession or under usufructuary mortgage with local residents in each district of Punjab State is enclosed.[1]

(b) as given in the statement referred to in (a) above.

(c) A scheme for the redemption of evacuee land mortgaged with possession with local residents is under consideration of Government.

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[1] Kept in the Library.

QUASI PERMANENT ALLOTMENT.

*3098. **Chaudhri Sundar Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the consolidation of blood relationship is one of the grounds for the Review or Revision of quasi-permanent allotment ;

(b) whether it is a fact that only those blood relations are being consolidated who applied before 30th November 1949 ; if so, the authority therefor ;

(c) the authority under which those who did not apply before 30th of November, 1949, are to be refused consolidation together with the reasons therefor ;

(d) the procedure to be adopted in respect of those blood-relations who came to know of their allotment or separation after 30th of November, 1949 ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) Yes.

(b) As a result of the decision taken by Government and notified by means of a press note of Rehabilitation Department, dated 17th October, 1949, only those blood relations are to be consolidated, who applied before 30th November, 1949.

(c) As in (b) above.

(d) Does not arise. However, Revenue Assistants Rehabilitation have been told that where areas are available, blood relations be consolidated.

GRANT OF LOANS TO ALLOTTEES FOR BUILDING OF HOUSES IN THE STATE.

*3108. **Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether it is a fact that allottees with less than two standard acres of land or non-allottees are not entitled to get loans for building of houses in the state ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a big allottee who had acquired landed property by purchase or inheritance in Pakistan and who did not own any residential house or did not at any time live in Pakistan will get a big evacuee house on the basis of his lands according to Punjab Government letter No. 5166/LRC, dated the 29th July, 1950 ;

(c) If replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the action, if any, taken by the Government to protect the smaller allottees and the non-allottees against forcible ejection ;

(d) whether it is a fact that a refugee is not entitled to the allotment of more than one evacuee house ; if so, whether it is within his knowledge that several allottees have been allotted more than one house while some are occupying evacuee houses both in urban areas and in the villages of their allotments :

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, whether instructious have been issued to the District Rehabilitation Authorities not to allot more than one house to any refugee ; if not, why not ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) Yes. They are, however, eligible to get free grants.

(b) An allottee whether big or small owning land in Pakistan is entitled to a house according to the formula as laid down in Government letter referred to in the question.

(c) Smaller allottees are entitled to housing accommodation according to the principles of allotment of evacuee houses in rural areas. The question of their forcible ejection therefore does not arise. As regards non-allottees instructions have already been issued that houses of landless evacuees must be allotted to landless displaced persons. Besides, instructions have also been issued that in case of eviction alternative accommodation should be provided to the oustees.

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(d) Yes. No data is available at headquarters and it will take a long time to collect the material from the subordinate offices. There is of course no bar to the allotment of a house in urban area in addition to the allotment of a house in rural area to a land allottee who possessed a house in the rural area as well as in the urban area in Western Pakistan as provided in this Department memorandum No. 4750 (R), dated the 10th October, 1950 which is placed on the table.[1] Moreover, an extra house can also be allotted as a cattle-shed to allottees where extra houses are available.

(e) Does not arise.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: Persons who have been allotted less than 2 acres of land have been sanctioned grants but no loans have been advanced to them, may I know the reasons for not giving them loans ?

Minister: If the hon. Member will refer to any particular case, I will be in a position to give reply after makiug the necessary enquiries.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government did not advance them any loans on the consideration that they will not be able to refund the amount of loan advanced to them ?

Minister: It is generally observed that allottees of small areas of land do not stick to one place and are engaged in other occupations elsewhere.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: May I know the number of such persons who have been allotted houses in cities as well as in villages ?

Minister: I require notice to answer this question.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: In view of the fact that these persons have been allotted houses at more than one place, may I know whether the houses are in surplus in the state ?

Minister: I have already replied to this question.

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[1]Kept in the Library.

ALLOTMENT OF HOUSES TO HARIJAN REFUGEES IN THE STATE.

***3109. Mehta Ranbir Singh :** Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Harijan refugees have been treated as 'Kamins' for the purpose of house allotment in rural areas.

(b) the effect of the classification of Ramdasias, etc., as agriculturists in the matter of allotment of evacuee houses ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) No. Only the displaced Kamins have been treated as 'Kamins' for the purpose of allotment of houses of evacuee Kamins in rural area.

(b) There is no effect of the classification of Ramdasias and Harijans, etc., as agriculturists in the matter of allotment of evacuee houses. The rural houses belonging to evacuee land owners are to be allotted to the allottees of land irrespective of the fact whether they are statutory agriculturists or not. Houses belonging to landless evacuees are to be allotted to the landless displaced persons.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the reasons for ejecting Harijans from the houses of Kamins ?

Minister for Rehabilitation : It is the policy of the Government to allot the houses of Kamins to the Kamins.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that the Harijans who were not owners of land have been ejected from the houses which were allotted to them ?

Minister : No, it is not a fact.

QUASI-PERMANENT ALLOTMENT IN VILLAGE SHERPUR KALAN, DISTRICT LUDHIANA.

***3110. Mehta Ranbir Singh** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Sherpur Kalan, Tahsil and District Ludhiana is an "A" grade village ;

(b) whether it is fact that the father of the Naib-Tahsildar, Consolidation of Holdings, Ludhiana, (now transferred to Karnal) and about 14 other relations of the said Naib-Tehsildar were entitled to quasi-permanent allotment in a "B" Grade village ;

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative whether the father, uncle, etc. of the said Naib-Tahsildar were allotted lands in the village referred to in part (a) above ; if so, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether any other party 'B' grade land-holder and a sitting allottee in the said village was considered for quasi-permanent allotment in the village ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) Yes.

(b) Unless names, parentage and other particulars of these persons are supplied, it is not possible to elicit necessary information.

(c) In view of the answer against part (b) above, it does not arise,

(d) No second grade allottee has been fitted in village Sherpur Kalan.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : May I know the name of the Naib-Tahsildar who was posted there ?

Minister : I do not know his name.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Is it not a fact that this Naib-Tehsildar, Consolidation of Holdings, represented to the Financial Commissioner against his allotment in 'B' grade ?

Minister : I do not know.

WELFARE OFFICERS IN THE STATE.

*3129. **Shrimati Sita Devi :** Will the hon. Minister for Labour be pleased to state :—

(a) whether the rules prescribing the qualifications and duties of Welfare Officers under Section 49(2) of the Indian Factories Act 1948 have been framed and notified so far ;

(b) the number of such qualified officers employed in the State so far ;

(c) whether any qualified Welfare Officer has been employed for labour working in connection with the 'Bhakra Nangal Project ?

The hon Shri Prithvi Singh Azad :

(a) Rules under Section 49 (2) of the Factories Act, 1948, have not yet been framed in this State.

(b) In view of (a) this does not arise.

(c) One Welfare Officer was appointed through the Punjab Public Service Commission on 25th July, 1949 and is working as such.

Shrimati Sita Devi : In view of the reply given to part (a) of the question that the rules have not yet been framed, may I know the reasons why delay has been caused in the framing of the Rules in this behalf ?

Minister : After the partition, the question of prescribing the qualifications and duties of Welfare Officers was under the consideration of the Government. Now a decision has been taken and the rules are under preparation.

Shrimati Sita Devi : When the appointment of Labour Commissioner was made soon after the partition and there is no reason to believe that he is over-worked, may I then know why the rules have not been framed during this period of three and a half years ?

Minister : Before this, the work was under the charge of the Chief Inspector of Factories. But now both the department have been amalgamated and steps will be taken to frame the rules as early as possible. I hope the hon. Member will excuse me for the delay caused in framing these rules.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know when this decision was taken that such and such work should be entrusted to the Labour Department ?

Minister : In the first week of February, 1951.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know when the Government propose to frame the rules now ?

Minister : As early as possible.

Sardar Sajjan Singh : May I know whether the Government would take early action as in the case of Municipal elections ?

Minister : The rules will be published without any further delay.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Should we hope that the rules will be framed by the end of April ?

Minister : I have stated that I can't specify the exact date though I hope the framing of rules will be complete in a month or a month and a half.

CENTRAL CRAFT INSTITUTE FOR GIRLS, SIMLA.

*3132. **Shrimati Sita Devi** : Will the hon. Minister for Rehabilitation be pleased to state :—

(a) the total amount spent by way of salary, honoraria, contingencies, stipends and scholarships on the Central Craft Institute for Girls, Simla in the year 1950-51.

(b) the amount spent in the year 1950-51 on the following schools in the Punjab which prepare candidates for the Diploma :—

(1) Amritsar, (2) Jullundur, (3) Ludhiana, (4) Ambala City.

(c) the total number of students who are on the roll of the schools referred to in part (b) above in the year 1950-51 ;

(d) the number of students who appeared in the final Diploma since 1948 from these various schools ;

(e) the number of students who have got the teachers' training between 1947 and 1950 from the Schools referred to above ;

(f) whether it is a fact Government had issued orders in 1948 and 1949 for the transfer of the Institute at Simla to Ambala or Amritsar ;

(g) whether it is a fact that the Head-mistress, Government Industrial School for Girls, Jullundur City has stopped admissions to the school since October 1950 ; if so, the reasons therefor ?

The hon. Sardar Ishar Singh Mujhail :

(a) Rs. 69,052/- from the 1st April, 1950 to the 28th February 1951.

(b) (1) Amritsar, Rs. 14,108/- (2) Jullundur, Rs. 24,918/-
(3) Ludhiana, Rs. 16,959/- (4) Ambala, Rs. 19,104/-

(From the 1st April, 1950 to the 28th February, 1951).

(c)	Simla ...	160	Amritsar...	105	Jullundur...	127
	Ludhiana	113	Ambala	105		
(d)	Simla ...	62	Amritsar...	50	Jullundur...	71
	Ludhiana	49	Ambala	57		
(e)	Simla	9	Other Schools Nil.			

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(f) Yes. But as there was no suitable accommodation available at Ambala, the Institute was allowed to function at Simla till such time as the Department was able to find necessary accommodation.

(g) Yes. This was done due to two reasons, *viz.*, admissions are made only in the months of April and October each year ; and the School is already over crowded because there are 127 students on roll as against the sanctioned strength of 90. Also since the number of teachers in the school is limited, it was considered that it would not be desirable to admit more students than what could be controlled by the limited staff.

Shrimati Sita Devi : May I know the reasons why the money spent on the Central Craft Institute for Girls, Simla is more than the money spent on each of the industrial schools functioning at Amritsar, Jullundur, Ludhiana and Ambala City ?

Minister : The number of students in this institution exceeds the number of students in any other institution.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Is it not a fact that the real reason for greater expenditure on the Simla School lies in the grant of more allowances to its staff ?

Minister : This is also one of the reasons.

Shrimati Sita Devi : It has been stated in reply to part (f) that the Government has not been able to shift the Institute to Ambala or any other place for want of suitable accommodation. But is it not a fact that in a Press Conference held on 19th August, 1948, the hon. Chief Minister had stated that though the school had been started at Simla because the Principal was living there it existed for the benefit of the whole province and would soon be shifted to the plains ?

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Is the hon. Lady Member giving an address ? (*Laughter*).

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member had promised not to interrupt when the Lady Member was speaking. He should at least keep his promise for sometime.

Shrimati Sita Devi: I was not reading an address. I just wanted to know as to why the Government is continuing this Institute at Simla and spending so much money for the benefit of girls of Simla only contrary to its promises.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): I beg to move :—

That the Assembly at its rising to-day shall stand adjourned *sine die*.

Deputy Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Assembly at its rising to-day shall stand adjourned *sine die*.

Sardar Bachan Singh: (Ludhiana Central-Sikh-Rural) (*Hindi*). Madam, I am really very much surprised to find that this motion has been made by the hon. Chief Minister. On the one side His Excellency the Governor says in his Address that this Assembly has not been able to transact sufficient legislative work and that a good deal has to be done by it in this field and on the other hon. Friends like Shri Amarnath Vidyalankar, who represents the Labour Constituency, evince a desire to sit for long hours to pass legislation for the good of the people but the Government comes up with this motion that the Assembly be adjourned *sine die* though no work has been done. I am sorry to say that a Bill which, if passed, would have been of very great advantage to the rural people of our State has been given a treatment which should not have been accorded to even the most undesirable form of legislation. Here I am referring to the Gaon Panchayat Bill. This Bill was introduced during the last Budget Session and was referred to the Select Committee. The Select Committee submitted its report in the end of August or beginning of

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September and we expected that this Bill as reported on by the Select Committee will come up for consideration of the Assembly during the Autumn Session. Unfortunately, nothing of the kind happened despite the fact that H. E. the Governor in his Address told us that that Bill was to come up for consideration during the Autumn Session. The Bill for reasons best known to the Government was put in cold storage. Similarly there was another important Bill which should have been placed on the legislative anvil long ago. This Bill was a very comprehensive Bill and related to matters of health. We waited for this Bill for a very long time but it would not come. This very fate was met by one Bill after the other. The Government has been publishing scores of Bills in the official Gazette and has been giving us the impression that they would come up for consideration before the House but all our hopes stand falsified. This year H. E the Governor remarked in his Address that if and when the suggestions regarding the liquidation of the system of the occupancy tenant were finalised a regular Bill would be placed before the House to achieve this end. We asked our Friends on the Treasury Benches as to when that Bill should be expected to come up and we were told that the Bill was being prepared by the Legal Remembrancer and it will come up before the Assembly as soon as it was received from him. Nothing is to be heard of this Bill. Here I have a very long list of the Ordinances which should have been given the form of regular legislation by a popular Government as the Ordinances lapse six weeks after the Assembly meets. But these Ordinances will continue as Ordinances without the approval of the House. If and when the Assembly is not in session the promulgation of Ordinances is understandable but to continue them after the Assembly has met is beyond my comprehension.

Madam, this Government promulgated an Ordinance and it gave rise to numerous complaints from the public. This Ordinance was published in the form of a Bill in the official Gazette and there was every hope that it would receive the attention and consideration of the Assembly during this session but this Bill is also not coming forth.

Chief Minister : Which was that Ordinance ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : That is Ordinance No. 1 and relates to the contracts of the local bodies. By virtue of this Bill the local bodies *i.e.*, the District Boards and the Municipal Committees will be enabled to charge as much rent for their buildings as they like when the private individuals are barred from charging anything more than the fair rent.

Deputy Speaker : As we have very limited time at our disposal I would request the hon. Member to speak to the point.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am to the point. I say that the Assembly should not be adjourned as so much work still remains undone.

Sardar Swaran Singh : A session may be held in June again.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I would have been satisfied if this remark had come from the side of the Government. But I am afraid the condition of my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh is the same as that of the Great Emperor Shah Jahan when he was in the Agra fort as a prisoner.

Sardar Swaran Singh : My hon. Friend is also having the sweet dream of his 10 days' rule.

Sardar Bachan Singh : The story goes that Shahjahan was put in the Agra fort by his son Aurangzeb as a prisoner. Shahjahan felt lonely in the castle and asked his son to allow him to hold classes there for the benefit of small boys. Aurangzeb said that the old man could not be given such a permission as such a wish on his part evinced a desire to rule. I think that my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh is in the same condition and I have sympathy for him.

Madam, what I was driving at was that it was a matter of shame to ask for adjournment *sine die* of the Assembly when so much work is pending. Not only those Bills which were published in the official Gazette for consideration during this session have not been disposed of but about 50 Bills which were meant to be passed during the year 1950 have not been dealt with. At any rate, those Bills which had been reported on by the Select Committees and those which were not controversial should have been passed. But who cares!

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

The Government neither brings those ordinances before the House in order to convert them into Bills nor does it care to finish other important work before adjourning. If all the important work cannot be finished to-dav, why should we not meet tomorrow as well as the day after. What is that special reason which compels the Government to bring this session to a close to-day ? People have great expectations from their representatives. It is the duty of the Government to amend defective Bills and to legislate fresh measures regarding important subjects. The Assembly is a sovereign body. The Cabinet is a kind of Executive Committee of the house. If this House does not discharge its duties towards the public, it will be failing in its duties. If it is decided on the motion of the hon. Chief Minister that the Assembly be adjourned *sine die* at the close of its meeting to-day, the public will not hold a high opinion about us. I shall feel ashamed when people tell me that we get our allowances as members of the Assembly but fail to discharge our duty towards our constituents. In his address to this House, the Governor pointed out that we did not pay proper attention to the task of legislation. Why should we leave a large part of important Assembly work unfinished and run to the plains ? It is our duty to sit here for fifteen or twenty days, if necessary, in order to dispose of the important work. A few days back when this State was under invasion by locust, I could understand if we had been asked to move to the plains in order to fight the locust. Now, however, ninety per cent of locust has been destroyed. During the months of December, January and February, the Ministers remained on tour for twenty-five or twenty-seven days in a month but now the reaping of rabi harvest is to commence and there is no scope for visits to villages. It would be a graceful act if our Government decides to hold ten or twelve more sittings of the Assembly in order to complete important work. The public will then realise that their representatives are serious about their work. I offer to the hon. Chief Minister to move that we should meet for three days more with a fixed agenda for each day which must be completed on that day before the meeting is adjourned till the next day. The people laugh at us that we draw our travelling allowance for each off—day and get

our compensatory allowance but do nothing more than pass the Budget. They think that if it were not essential to pass the Budget, we would perhaps not do that work even. Legislation is one of the most important duties of the Legislative Assemblies. If we do not discharge that duty also, what are we here for? In the present transitional period, when so many social and economic changes are taking place in the world, we should register our decisions about these; we should not shirk our responsibilities. I used to hear that this session would be brought to a close on the 30th March and when I received lists of business for the 2nd and 3rd April, I could not understand the reason. I do not agree with those people who say that these things are done after verifying the auspiciousness of a particular day, but I do not understand how can we explain to the people about our running away when so much important work remains unfinished. An important piece of legislation like the Gaon Panchayat Bill would have needed at least five or six days for its consideration. What faith can the public have in a Government which does not attend to its duties. In the Governor's address, it was said that..............

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should place his own views before the House instead of referring to the views expressed in the Governor's address.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am referring to the observations made by His Excellency, because the views of the Head of the State have far greater weight than the views of a Member of the Opposition. There can be no more responsible person than the Governor. People had high expectations that such and such measures would be enacted during session of the Assembly and their hardships would be thereby alleviated. What will they think about us when we tell them that after passing the Budget, we passed only one or two Bills? Some hon. Members told me to-day that as the session was going to end to-day they had their beddings ready for returning to their homes. When this is the condition of the hon. Members, how can they be expected to seriously attend to the work to-day, which is going to be the last day of the Session?

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I was pleased to read in the papers only yesterday that Bombay Legislative Assembly had passed no less than 25 bills in the budget session. Not only this, it is Bombay Government to which goes the credit of actually putting into practice the prohibition programme of Mahatma Gandhi whose followers many others over here claim to be. That Government has successfully put into practice complete prohibition in their State. Even in the matter of the safeguard of civil liberties, that Government, following the example of Madras Government, has separated the judiciary from the executive. But Madam, what is the position in our State ? Some hon. Members say that they would borrow those Bills from those States at the time of need.

Deputy Speaker : Punjab will always be an "Agwa" (leader.)

Sardar Bachan Singh : I thought you meant that the Punjab would be abducted (Aghwa) ! There has already been enough of abduction in the East and West Punjabs. We do not want any more of it.

Deputy Speaker : I meant that Punjab would always be a leader.

Sardar Bachan Singh : If Punjab is to be a leader, we should be able to say that such and such Bills have been passed here for public good. For instance, there was the Bill of our poor sister who wept and cried for it but it could not be passed.

Shrimati Sita Devi : I am not poor ; I have been fighting for the passage of the Bill.

Sardar Bachan Singh : She says that she has been fighting for the passage of her Bill. But still this Bill could not be passed. This militant (Laraki) sister of ours could not succeed in getting the proud distinction of having a private Bill passed although it was in the final stage.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chadha : Is it parliamentary to call a Member "Laraki" (militant) ?

Deputy Speaker : But she is pleased when she is called militant (Laraki). What can I do ? All the same, I would ask the hon. Member not to call her either poor or militant (Laraki).

Sardar Bachan Singh : Similarly Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar wanted to get his resolution on industrial labour passed. But I am sorry to say that he could not succeed in that. He requested me not to make any speeches on that resolution so that it could be passed on that day, otherwise the Government would not give any other day for non-official Members' business.

Deputy Speaker : He engaged you as his counsel. That is why his resolution was not passed.

Sardar Bachan Singh : No, Madam, he did not engage me as his counsel. He only wanted me not to make any speeches so that the resolution might be passed. Only to-day, we were told by the hon. Minister that so far no rules and regulations had been made for the labour welfare. For all this long period of 8½ years, the Government has been only sleeping over this matter. If this session were to be ended to-day, I would not have made any speeches on that resolution of Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar so that it could be passed, although I know that it would have remained unimplemented even after its passage. (At this stage, the hon. Deputy Speaker repeatedly rung the bell to show that the time of the hon. Member was over.) I think, you should strangle me, if you do not want to give me opportunity to express my views.

Deputy Speaker : Nobody can strangle a good man like you. I only wanted to impress upon you the limitation of time. I have to point out again and again that the time at our disposal is very short and the work to be transacted much. That is why I requested the hon. Member to finish his speech.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Madam, time has no significance for the Assembly which will be shortly adjourned *sine die*. Time has significance for those who work. For idlers, the rising and the setting of the sun have no significance. I, therefore, want to submit that the treatment which is meted out to the legislators here and the public

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outside, does not behove a popular Government. A popular Government should give sufficient time for the meetings of the Assemblv and it should get maximum legislative work out of the Assembly so that the hon. Members might be able to justify their allowance.

Deputy Speaker : This is repetition.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Madam, I want to submit that the problems which we are facing, demand that we should at least finish the work that is before us. I would like to request the hon. Chief Minister that he should not bring a blot on the fair name of this Assembly by adjourning it to-day. He should at least bring the ordinances which have been promulgated, before the Assembly. They should either be passed or rejected by this Assembly. If those ordinances are not brought before the Assembly, people would laugh at us. With these words, I oppose this motion. It would be better if it is withdrawn by the hon. Chief Minister. But if he does not do so, it should be rejected by the House.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar (Non-Union Labour), (*Hindi*) : Madam, I know that while recording my vote I will be found under the Party discipline to cast my vote in favour of this motion, but my conscience compels me to give vent to my feelings against this motion. I strongly feel that we are creating bad precedents in the Assembly. If we are to successfully run the Government on true democratic lines it is necessary that we should scrupulously avoid creating such utterly wrong, undesirable and dangerous traditions that will curtail democratic rights of the people, and make its working a farce. The Assembly is the healthy channel, through which public opinion and public feelings get their expressions. This channel should be allowed a normal flow, and no interference should be allowed to impede the exercise of this most important function of the Members. We are here as Congressmen, we hold the powerful majority. But that majority of votes must not be used to stifle the discussion on public matters. We are here to set up healthy precedents for the future. In my humble opinion we have not kept these responsibilities in view. It is scandalous that during the course of the last three years this Assembly should have had only ninety-one sittings. In some of the other States of India and in the Central

Parliament the hon. Members are paid daily allowance of Rs. 40/- per sitting, or something near about.

Deputy Speaker : This matter has been discussed by Sardar Bachan Singh also. I think it need not be repeated. It casts a reflection on the hon. Members and it does not look nice if it is repeated time and again.

Shri Amar Nath Vidyalankar : Madam, I am giving vent to my strong feelings on this point and I hope that such an introspection is sure to be beneficial to the hon. Members themselves. In the Central Assembly and in other State Assemblies where allowances are given for each sitting it can be understood if the Government decides finishing the business in the least number of sittings. But for our Assembly where Members are getting monthly allowances it does not look nice to reduce the number of sittings and finish of business abruptly. As a matter of fact it is a wrong tradition that we are sitting up. During this session we have had twenty-nine settings only. This may be the last session of this Assembly because the elections are going to be held soon. It does not bring any credit to this House that it may have only four months sittings in aggregate during the last four years or so. I am saying these things not from the consideration of any party feelings but I have before me the higher interests of the State and the democratic form of our institutions. I strongly oppose this motion because my conscience revolts against it. I have given expression to my views on the point and I hope that the hon. Chief Minister will withdraw the motion as it is not in the interests of the State. With these words I resume my seat.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I know that the header of the House will find it easy to get this motion passed by issuing a party whip but the people will say :—

ਜੋ ਬਾਤ ਕੀ ਖ਼ੁਦਾ ਕੀ ਕਸਮ ਲਾਜਵਾਬ ਕੀ

जो बात की ख़ुदा की कसम लाजवाब की

Upto 30th of March we have been discussing the budget now only two sittings have been devoted to legislative business. There are

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many important Bills pending but no attention is paid to them. This might be the last session; we cannot say whether there will be another session or not. Even if one is held, it will only be a session of eight or ten days. No one knows why the Government is going to finish this session so abruptly. Is it because the hon. Ministers are feeling tired or is it because some trouble has arisen? The expenditure of the Government will not increase by prolonging the session because the Members are paid monthly allowance. As a matter of fact the hon. Members are prepared to sit for some days more.

Minister for Public Works: But some of them have already booked their luggage (*laughter*).

Shrimati Sita Devi: Madam, my submission is that the hon. Members are prepared to work. They have not submitted any representation asking the Government to stop the session as they did in the case of the Holi holidays. So my submission is that there is no ground for adjourning the Assembly *sine die*. If not longer, the Government should extend the session for at least one week more so that all the necessary legislative work may be disposed of. The Government which claims to be a popular Government should realize the feelings of the common man on this point and in the interests of the poor it should withdraw this motion. Of course, the leader of the House will guillotine the desires of the hon. Members by issuing the party whip But I wish to point out that it will bring no credit to the Government and to the House. So I would most humbly request the hon. Chief Minister not to be obstinate in not accepting all the good suggestions. I am pained to note that the present Government of ours has no desire to pass such Bills which try to safeguard the interests of the poor. I have been trying to get a private Bill passed but somehow or other it has not been allowed to be passed. I don't want to have any credit for that Bill. If the Government so desires it can have credit for itself but I do want that it should be passed But unfortunately our Government has the misfortune of not getting credit for anything good In this case the feeling of the House is that there is no reason why the session should end now. Has some astrologer asked the Government to end it? My submission is

that the Government should first look to the interests of the State and then decide whether there is any necessity of continuing with our work or not ? The interests of his people should be our first concern. With these words I request the hon. Chief Minister to withdraw this motion.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I may point out at the very outset that the motion, put forward by the Leader of the House, goes counter to the best interests of the people. I am surprised that it has emanated from no less a person than the hon. Dr. Gopi Chand himself, who has always claimed to have service of the people foremost in his heart. I think this motion has presented him in his true colours because it belies his professions. Before I proceed with my speech, I would like to assure the House that I would refrain from indulging in repetition of the arguments which have already been advanced against this motion. (*Hear, hear*). Well, Madam, I am of the opinion that the foremost duty of the House is to legislate measures for the benefit of the people. The hon. Members are not here for their selfish ends or for interfering with the administration of the Government. It is no business of theirs to aggravate the communal feelings in the State or to attend the Assembly Session for doing the jobs of their friends. Their main job in coming to this august House is to improve the legislation of the State with their considered views. Keeping this fact in view, we should see as to what the achievements of the Government are in the matter of legislation passed for rehabilitating this economically-shattered State. We find that its record in this respect is not encouraging. It is much below our expectations. As you are aware, Madam, the Central Government loaned out crores of rupees to this Government for purposes of giving loans to the displaced persons to rehabilitate themselves. It goes without saying that the recovery of these loans will not be possible unless some effective legislation is made in this connection.

Deputy Speaker : Is it necessary to legislate for the recovery of loans ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Most surely, Madam. It is a pity that the hon. Members are not giving due attention to the responsibility

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

that falls upon their shoulders in this respect. As I have already stated, their main purpose is to pass legislation for the good of the State. I would ask them to make an introspection as to how far they have succeeded in discharging this responsibility. I think they would be considered to have acted their part well, even if they give one anna in a rupee of good legislation to the people at large. I feel that the party in power will be failing in its duty if the Assembly session is brought to a close so soon without transacting any legislation work to an appreciable extent. I know that some bills are on today's agenda, which the Government want to legislate in haste before dispersing. But I may point out that our past experience in respect of legislation enacted in haste, has not been very happy. The hon. Members would remember that Government had to bring in amending bills to the parent Acts, not once but four times to set right the lacunae, which were left on account of indecent haste with which the same were enacted Now very important legislative measures are waiting to be brought on the Statute Book—I need not repeat them—and yet the hon. Ministers are running away without caring to enact them into law. We read from the newspapers that a crisis has overtaken them and they want to escape it by adjourning the House *sine die*. But I think now that the crisis has passed, no emergency exists which necessitates the early adjournment of the House.

Deputy Speaker : But an emergeney has arisen.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Not to our knowledge. It may have arisen in the Cabinet but Government has not told us that it is dangerous for the hon. Ministers to continue the House in session any longer, and therefore it is necessary for them to run away from the House by adjourning it. Well, Madam, I was going to submit that not only in my opinion but also in the opinion of the majority of the hon. Members, a lot of important legislation was pending before the Government for disposal. In this connection, I may point out that during the last session of the Assembly, an important Bill on Co-operation was brought on the agenda, but was not passed. I thought that it would be enacted during the present session, but it is conspicuous in the Agenda by its absence. I feel that when these

Minister cannot bring about co-operation in the Cabinet, how can they legislative on the subject for the good of the public ?

Minister for Public Works : The main difficulty is that you people withhold co-operation.

Deptuy Speaker : No interruption please.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : We are ever prepared to extend our hand of co-operation in any noble work which the Government may want to do. But we cannot be a party to the loot which the hon. Minister and members of his like are carrying on.

Deputy Speaker : Please withdraw the word 'loot' as it is unparliamentary.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I bow to your ruling, Madam, but I respectfully submit that the equivalent of the word 'loot' in English is 'exploitation', which has never been declared as unparliamentary and in fact I have used the word 'loot' strictly in the sense of the word 'exploitation'.

Ministe for Public Works : The hon. Deputy Speaker need not ask him to withdraw it, as he himself is equally guilty of it.

Deputy Speaker : I don't want any suggestion from any side. I know my job very well. L et tehhon. Member proceed.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Well, Madam, I was submitting that the Government had killed the Bill on Co-operation. But there is yet another matter of vital importance, which was included in the Agenda of Monday, but has now been deleted. You will remember that I moved an adjournment motion on the worsening of communal as well as crime situation in the State. The hon. Chief Minister was pleased to hold out an assurance that the matter would be discussed on Monday from 10 A. M. to 12 noon. The agenda distributed for Monday did include this item for discussion. Now this important matter has been left out of to-day's agenda and the House is adjourning *sine die.* I submit that the hon. Members coming from the rural area know full well the importance of this matter and feel that it should be discussed before the session ends. I may tell the hon.

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Chief Minister that he should not shilly shally in this matter as there is no escape from it. He should know that the life of Harijans is being made difficult in the rural areas.

Deputy Speaker : This has no connection with the motion under discussion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Madam. If a matter like the discussion of the crime and communal situation in the State comes on the agenda and then it is put off, may I know whether its reference is relevant to this motion or not ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I must say that I am not irrelevant when I allude to the crime or communal situation in the State. I would be failing in my duty if I do not ask the hon. Chief Minister to shake off his complacency and face the representatives of the people in this House boldly in this matter. I feel that this situation is the creation of my hon. Friends on the Treasury Benches.

Minister for Public Works : It is friends like the hon. Member who fan the fire of communal discord.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : It is my hon. Friends who are solely responsible for the worsening communal situation in the State. They are following in the footsteps of the Britishers who used to act upon the policy of 'divide and rule'.

Deputy Speaker : Please address the Chair.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I may point out that I come in contact with the masses very frequently. I do not move about under the protection of the police.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member is indulging in taunts which have no connection with the motion now before the House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, I am submitting the conditions prevailing in the State.

Deputy Speaker : I wish just as a considerable number of hon. Members had signed a request to the hon. Chief Minister for permission to be away for celebrating the Holi festival, similarly they should have made a request under twenty or thirty signatures for the extension of the sittings of the Assembly. If this had been done, then things would have been different. But now there is no rule under which Government can be stopped from adjourning the House *sine die*. It is, therefore, no use indulging in taunts.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, I would not say anything with regard to the Bill. But I feel that discussion of crime and communal situation in the State is of vital importance. Why should the Government back out when the matter had been brought on the agenda and a time had been fixed for its discussion. I still believe that these worsening conditions in the State are the creation of no other persons except my hon. Friends on the Treasury Benches. They are responsible for vitiating the communal atmosphere in the rural areas, as a result of which people find it hard to pass their days peacefully. As I have already stated, they have adopted the policy of the Britishers to keep their *gaddis* intact. I am pained to remark that my hon. Friends occupying Treasury Benches, used to deliver sermons on democracy. And the spirit of democracy which they are demonstrating is that they are flouting the almost unanimous verdict of the House not to adjourn the House *sine die*. So, what more can we expect of them.

Madam, I think you remember that a resolution regarding the compulsory primary education moved by me was unanimously adopted by this House. But you will be surprised to hear that the Government instead of bringing in any legislative measure slept over it and did not take any action whatsoever. I take this opportunity of asking the hon. Chief Minister as to why he has failed to fulfil the promise which he held out to us a few days ago to the effect that he would fix a day for discussing the crime situation in the State. After all, what emergency has arisen to justify the adjournment of the House *sine die* ? What special circumstances have forced the hon. Chief Minister to take such a step ? Madam, I have just now received a letter in which the writer has given a vivid picture of the conditions obtaining at present in every nook and corner of the State.

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May I know as to what sort of calamities have befallen the hon. Chief Minister to adjourn the House *sine die* ?

Minister for Public Works : Nothing of the sort. (*Interruptions*)

Deputy Speaker : Order, order. The hon. Chief Minister will himself reply to the points raised by the hon. Member.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, I have just now received a letter in which the writer has given a vivid account about the conditions obtaining at present in the length and breadth of the State. He writes to say that Harijans are being harassed in the rural areas and that their womenfolk are subjected to a very humiliating treatment. I would like to read out the contents of the letter.

Deputy Speaker : I do not want the hon. Member to read out that letter.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Very well, Madam, I will not read it. You are fully aware of how much money of the State Exchequer is being spent on the C. A. and T. A of the hon. Members of this House.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member is again and again repeating the same thing.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Perhaps you remember that in reply to the question regarding the number of days each month the hon. Ministers are usually on tour, it was given out by the Government that they are away on tour for 25 days in a month.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member is not relevant.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, what I wish to point out is this that if the House is extended for some time more I am sure a great saving of T. A. which the hon. Ministers otherwise draw, would thus be effected to the State Exchequer.

Thakur Beli Ram : Question may now be put, Madam.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General, Rural) ; Madam, I have no intention to repeat what my hon. Friends who have preceded me have said in the course of their speeches. I have only to say one or two things. I would like to bring this point home to the hon. Members that whatever is happening here in this House is already known to the public outside. If my hon. Friends continue making speeches in the manner they have been making for the last few days, then you can yourself imagine what impression the people outside will form about us. The way the business of the House is transacted will, I am afraid, make the people in the galleries feel that they have come here just to see the fun. (*Voices* : No reference to galleries) (*Noise and interruption*).

Deputy Speaker : Order, order. I would ask the hon. Member to speak to the Motion. No reference to the galleries.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Madam, what I mean to say is this that some of the hon. Members by using dilatory tactics have created an unhealthy atmosphere in the House. I know why my hon. Friends particularly occupying the Opposition Benches are using dilatory tactics. As a matter of fact they do not make any contribution to the discussion of this House in the interests of both the people and the administration. It is really a pity that the hon. Members are not serious about their jobs. Under the circumstances, there is no reason why the people outside should not form a very bad opinion about us. Perhaps my hon. Friends do not remember that on certain occasions there was hardly any quorum in the House. This shows how much interest they take in the business of this House.

Further, there are certain important Bills which if placed on the Statute Book will go a long way to improve the condition of the people of our State. For instance, the Panchayat Bill which, it is said, would establish Ram Rajya of our Bapu's dreams ....

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Here the conditions are worse than those prevalent during 'Ravan Rajya.'

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : So far as the Bills which will remain pending are concerned, the provisions of these Bills can be enforced by promulgating ordinances, and I do not think there should be any

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objection to adjourning the House *sine die*. Moreover, the Leader of the House, who also happens to be a doctor, has felt the pulse of the hon. Members and I quite agree that no time should be lost in adjourning the House. Under the circumstances, I would request the hon. Members not to waste the time of the House by making lengthy speeches and also by using dilatory tactics.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal (Amritsar, General, Rural) : Madam, before I proceed with my speech I would like to read out a couplet in Urdu which is—

क्या कहुँ कुछ कहा ही नही जाता। चुप रहूं तो रहा नही जाता।

ਕਿਆ ਕਹੂੰ ਕੁਛ ਕਹਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਤਾ। ਚੁਪ ਰਹੂੰ ਤੋ ਰਹਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਜਾਤਾ।

Madam, you must have noted that I have not made any speech so far during the current session of the Assembly. I have my own reasons for that.

Madam, you must have also noted that excluding the seven hon. Members who are occupying the Opposition Benches, all the hon. Members belonging to one and the same party, namely, the Congress Assembly Party have not spared any pains in advancing scathing criticisms against the Government and also against each other. I do not think that the hon. Members occupying the Opposition Benches have passed such remarks and made such scathing criticisms against the Government as has been done by the members of one and the same party, namely, he Congress Party.

But the speeches of the hon. Members of this House have little effect upon the hon Ministers. They do not pav any heed to whatever is said and are not amenable to our advice. I think the time is not far off when the hon. Members and the Ministers who are responsible for such deplorable state of affairs in the State will not be able to escape the wrath of the public.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Madam, is the hon. Member making his speech in Mochi Gate ?

Sri Kedar Nath Saigal : You may imagine that this meeting of the House is a Mochi Gate meeting

Chaudhri Kartar Singh ; I would draw the attention of the Chair to the remarks made by the hon. Members. They should be asked to withdraw their remarks.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member, Sardar Ajit Singh, should not have used these words and I would ask him to withdraw these remarks.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Madam, I withdraw these remarks.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member, Shri Kedar Nath Saigal, had merely retorted to the remarks made by Sardar Ajit Singh and there is no need for him to withdraw.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order, Madam. My hon. Friend Shri Kedar Nath Saigal had remarked that he considered this august House as Mochi Gate.

Deputy Speaker : This is no point of order.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : There is no doubt that my hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh is in the habit of making interruptions, but however, I withdraw my remarks. During the pre-independence days the Unionist Government gave priority to the legislative work but here the position is quite different. This Session commenced on the 28th February, 1951 and there have been hardly 22 sittings so far. The hon. Chief Minister should not now entertain any fear as he has been able to retain his majority by four votes. I do not know why he has brought forward a motion for adjourning the Assembly *sine die*, when so much work is still pending. He should not sense any danger to himself and his party's position now. There is no urgency which necessitates the adjournment of the Assembly without transacting important legislative business. I would, therefore, ask the hon. Ministers and particularly the Chief Minister that they should not feel upset and address themselves seriously to the task of disposing of legislative business and show to the public

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that they are paying serious attention to their work. Public opinion is growing now-a-days against the persons who wear Gandhi caps like the one which Captain Ranjit Singh is putting on and to-day it is difficult to go about with Gandhi cap on.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : On a point of order, Madam. I would draw the attention of the Chair that the hon. Member is not speaking to the motion. (*Noise and interruptions*).

Deputy Speaker : Order, order. I would appeal to the hon. Members that it is the duty of the Chair to reply to a point of order raised by an hon. Member. They are requested to observe decorum and maintain the dignity of the House and leave behind good impression on the last day. When any hon. Member is on his legs nobody should interrupt him It is for me to see whether the hon. Member is speaking to the motion or not.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : Madam, I was speaking to the motion and was submitting that there is no such emergency which necessitates the adjournment of the Assembly without transacting legislative work. I do not see any reason why an important Bill like Gaon Panchayat Bill has been postponed. Similarly there are so many other Bills which have not been passed. I may submit, Madam, that even the leaders of the High Command are feeling very much unhappy over the deplorable state of affairs in the Punjab. They do not know how to put an end to this state of affairs. It is generally observed that if in any family a son or a younger brother commits any wrong the responsibility for it lies on the head of the family. Similarly, the whole responsibility for this state of affairs lies on the hon. Chief Minister. I cannot even absolve myself from this responsibility as I also earn a bad name if there is an unsatisfactory state of affairs in the State.

If no efforts are made to improve the state of affairs, the 'Red' danger will soon overtake us. Already Communism and Socialism are

gaining ground taking advantage of our weaknesses and omissions. No one can to-day deny that danger from Communism is real and apparent. It is time those who are having large incomes and are living a life of comfort and luxury in their nice bungalows without doing any work realized that they will not be able to continue in this manner for long.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, Madam. Is the hon. Member relevant ? The motion before the House is that the Assembly at its rising to-day shall adjourn *sine die*. What is the connection of my friends's arguments with this motion ?

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member has merely repeated the point of order raised just a while ago. I might request the hon. Members that they should, instead of trying to guide me, perform their own duties and while raising points of order they should not start specifying themselves.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : I want to tell my hon. Friend that they are fiddling while the whole Punjab is burning. He and his colleagues on the Treasury Benches are blissfully ignorant of what is happening in the State. I would ask them and especially the hon. Chief Minister to move about *incognito* among the people to see the true state of affairs. Let them not remain under the illusion that 'God is in His Heaven and all is right with the world.' Why do my friends shirk sitting for a few days more and dispose of the business properly ? What is the need of racing like a fire engine ? Where was our hon. Chief Minister when women and men were being insulted and harassed by the Police in a certain town of this very State ? He should have reached that place immediately and not moved from there without making a proper enquiry into the complaints of the people. Sardar Swaran Singh is laughing. Yes, he has no worry since he is earning a thousand rupees every month. And why should Chaudhri Lahri Singh worry now that he has started a dairy farm. Two or three days back when I met Babu Parshotam Dass Tandon and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru I was asked as to why I was still wearing black garments. I told them frankly that this dress was the touchstone of the Congress Government on which its administration was being tested by me—and that

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I would tear it off and burn it the very day I felt sufficient improvement in it.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Are these remarks relevant ?

Deputy Speaker : I am in no case prepared to regard the hon. Member as my 'Guru.' In fact, he doesn't want to hear anything serious.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : Yes, being a rustic he has been a Minister thrice. Why should he bother about anything ?

Chaudhri Sahib Ram : On a point of order, Madam. Is there any restriction on ruralites becoming Ministers ?

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal : Madam, I wish and pray that these persons sitting opposite should do such work as may make it possible for them to continue to grace the Treasury Benches for a very long time to come. If they move about and after having a correct picture of the conditions prevalent in the State start working honestly for improving them, I shall be the first person to congratulate them.

In the end, I would request the hon. Chief Minister not to insist upon adjourning the Assembly *sine die* so long as pending legislative work is not finished even though it might take two or three or six months more. I need not remind him that in the Unionist regime the Assembly used to sit for five months in a year. It is strange that he has already started yawning.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : (Hoshiarpur West, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, my hon. Friend Shri Kedar Nath Saigal while opposing the motion for adjournment *sine die* has put forth some weighty arguments. He has been pleased to say that the session should be continued till such time as the legislation work is not finished. But unfortunately he appears to have forgotten that some incidents which happened during the last few days in the villages of the State have greatly endangered public peace and tranquillity. Under these circumstances, the Government wishes that it should

be enabled to examine the situation on the spot with the help of some Congress workers so that this situation may be brought under control. So far as the legislative work is concerned, I am in a position to inform my hon. Friends that the Government would soon be calling another session of the Legislative Assembly. I was grieved to hear hon. Shri Kedar Nath Saigal remarking that in fact the whole of the State was on fire and that the hon. Chief Minister was not taking the trouble of going out in disguise to see things for himself. My hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar while speaking on the General Administration made Shri Kriplani's speech-that he made on the policy of Prime Minister Nehru—fade into insignificance. Shri Kriplani said that corruption had reached at the top in the Centre and the same has been said by hon. Mr. Sachar in respect of the State Government.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member appears to be going astray. He should be relevant.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I hope you will be good enough to give me the same latitude as you gave to hon. Shri Kedar Nath Saigal in the matter of relevancy.

Deputy Speaker : Has the hon. Member any doubt that I shall be unjust to him ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I have absolutely no fears.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order. I am sure the hon. Gentleman has indulged in a reflection of a very grave type on the Chair and on the dignity of the House. He should be called upon to withdraw his words. We must observe the dignity of the Chair at all costs.

Deputy Speaker : I have asked the hon. Member in the presence of everybody to say if he has any doubt that I am not doing him justice and he has said that he has none. I would ask hon. Shri Bhim Sen Sachar not to take the words of Chaudhri Kartar Singh very seriously as he belongs to a class which does not attach much value to words.

Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Madam. I am to say that the words of hon. Chaudhri Kartar Singh constitute a reflection on the Chair. He has said that he should be given the same latitude in the matter of relevancy or irrelevancy as has been given to others. This clearly means that in his opinion justice is not being done to him. He has no right to cast aspersions on the Chair and he should be asked to withdraw his words.

Deputy Speaker : I am sure that the hon. Member is putting meanings in his words which he never meant.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I am proud that this Chair is being graced by my hon. Sister. I am proud that the Chair of the Punjab Legislative Assembly is being occupied by a capable and an honest Sister who will maintain the dignity of this House.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should speak to his motion.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I was saying that during the Budget session the hon. Members have been wasting time in the lobbies on useless discussions and we have been seeing all this with our own eyes.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should speak to the motion.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : My hon. Friends have remarked that the Government should not have brought this motion for adjourning the Assembly *sine die* as so much of legislative work is still pending. I wish to say that when the Budget Session was being held the hon. Members were wasting time in the lobbies. And then it has been said that no law and order is to be found in the State. In this connection I beg to submit that if we see things for ourselves in the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, we will find that the standard of administration in this State is much higher than what is to be found in other States. We are really proud of the fact that we possess such capable and honest officers who have solved our problem of rehabilitation and resettlement in a wonderful manner.

Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order. I wish to know whether this speech is in any way connected with the motion.

Deputy Speaker : Every thing can be relevant if the hon. Members co-operate.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I was submitting that if those hon. Members who saw the displaced people coming from the West Punjab after partition in their bullock-carts now go to see them in the villages, they will find that they have been resettled most satisfactorily. I have myself toured in the villages of Districts Hoshiarpur, Jullundur and Ludhiana and I can say that about 80 per cent zamindars are satisfied with the allotment.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : How can this self-praise be regarded as relevant ?

Deputy Speaker : If the point of order raised by the hon. Member is relevant then this speech should also be relevant.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I wish to say that we are getting a bad name simply because of the policy that is being pursued by my hon. Friends.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I say, is the hon. Member speaking to the motion or simply praising the officers for their work ?

Deputy Speaker : I think the maps of the hon. Chaudhri Lahri Singh have infected the hon. Member as well. (*Laughter*).

Shri Ram Sharma : Are these rulings being recorded ?

Deputy Speaker : Yes, they are being recorded and shall be published in the form of a book.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I was submitting that the administration of our State is excellent. No doubt some people are not satisfied with it but they will not be satisfied till they hold the reins of the Government in their own hands. My hon. Friends say that the Assembly session should not be adjourned as the administration of the State is not satisfactory and because the hon. Chief Minister does not go out in disguise to see things.

[Chaudhri Kartar Singh]

My hon. Friend Shri Kedar Nath Saigal said that the police committed atrocities. I wish to tell him that hon. Sardar Sajjan Singh and Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur met the Chief Minister in connection with a happening in District Amritsar. He at once ordered that the police officers concerned should be suspended. When the wishes of some of my hon. Friends are not fulfilled they begin to complain. Before finishing my speech, I wish to submit once again that it is essential to adjourn the House so that the deteriorating conditions of law and order in the State might be set right. On the one hand letters are read out to show that Harijans are being subjected to great hardships, on the other hand objections are raised when a certain step is suggested for setting the matters right. We should fully realise our responsibilities. Whosoever be the Chief Minister, all of us are members of the Congress party and it is our duty to raise its prestige. According to my hon. Friend, who raises points of order again and again, the Congress party was very good so long as he was a Minister but it ceased to be such when he did not occupy that position. During his Ministership, bungalows belonging to Muslims were taken into possession by some of my hon. Friends.

Deputy Speaker : No reflections please.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : We decided to put persons like my hon. Friend behind the bars.

Deputy Speaker : I have already asked the hon. Member to refrain from making personal remarks. When I am here to plead the point of view of Chaudhri Lahri Singh, why should he rise and point out these things to me ? I shall request the hon. Member to withdraw the remarks made by him about the bungalows belonging to Muslims.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I can prove all these things. I have not named anybody and I am saying these things with full sense of responsibility. If anybody doubts their veracity, I can prove these by giving the names of persons concerned. I, therefore, cannot withdraw these remarks. But as this is your ruling that I should withdraw them, I do so.

Shri Ram Sharma : On a point of order, Madam. Is it open to the hon. Member to refer to those matters which he says he can prove to be true ? I want your ruling about it.

Deputy Speaker : I asked the hon. Member to withdraw those remarks. If somebody has the courage to say that he can prove certain things, he cannot be prevented from saying so.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Madam. When once the Chair has ruled that the hon. Member should withdraw certain remarks, is it open to him—whether he is a Parliamentary Secretary or a Minister—to say that he can not withdraw them ?

Deputy Speaker : If any member, whether he is a Minister, a Parliamentary Secretary or an ordinary Member, makes some unparliamentary remarks, he will have to withdraw those. I have already asked the Parliamentary Secretary to withdraw his remarks and he has done so.

Hon. Members : He has not withdrawn those remarks.

Deputy Speaker : When I say that he has withdrawn those remarks, I should be believed. I shall, however, request the Parliamentary Secretary to withdraw those remarks again.

Sardar Swaran Singh : If he has already withdrawn those words, how can he be asked to withdraw them again ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I have not named anybody, but if my remarks have pained some of my hon. Friends, I withdraw those, though I have withdrawn them once before also. I wish to request the hon. Members once again to make a joint effort for raising this State. We should settle all our differences ourselves and instead of going to Delhi we should settle these here. I have great regard for my hon. Friend Shri Kedar Nath Saigal.

Sardar Swaran Singh : The hon. Member should give expression to these feelings outside the house.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I wish to point out to him that if he thinks that time has not yet come for his removing his black clothes, he should tell us what changes he desires. He will be justified in complaining if his instructions are not carried out.

Shri Kedar Nath Saigal: Why were steel cases withdrawn ?

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I wish to give a reply to this question of my hon. Friend. In accordance with the action taken by the previous Ministry in this connection, these cases are proceeding in the courts of Special Magistrates.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has said that action is being taken according to law. Before replying to his uncle Shri Kedar Nath Saigal, it would have been better if he had consulted the hon. Chief Minister about the appropriate time for his changing the black clothes. That would have been more appropriate. Such a serious matter should not be treated lightly.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : This ruling from the Chair surpasses the rulings of late Mr. Patel.

Deputy Speaker : I had an opportunity of listening to Mr. Patel before Chaudhri Sahib was even born—I mean born politically. When the Central Assembly used to meet in this Chamber, I used to sit in the Visitors Gallery and listen to the rulings given by Mr. Patel.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : You appear to have learnt these things from him.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Madam. I respectfully want to submit that the dignity of the Chair is the dignity of the House. You should try to maintain the traditions of the Chair. I, therefore, most respectfully request you to spare the hon. Members the remarks which you made just now.

Deputy Speaker : I respect your sentiments and I am sorry if my remarks have hurt your feelings. But I shall be grateful to you if you keep a check on the hon. Member on your right.

Sardar Swaran Singh : She means Chaudhri Lahri Singh.

Chaudhri Kartar Singh : I was submitting that we are quite good people. We can be still better if hon. Members like Lala Kedar Nath Saigal were to help us. They should help the Government to uplift this State. In the end, I would request the House to accept the Motion of the Government for the adjournment of the House so that the hon. Chief Minister may be able to tour the State.

Shri Buja Ram Bhagat (Loharu, Dujana and Pataudi States) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I have stood up to oppose this motion. If the Assembly is adjourned to-day, many useful Bills which are now pending before the House will not be taken up. For instance, there is the Gaon Panchayat Bill. If this Bill is passed, rural people will be saved from the curse of unnecessary litigation. Secondly there is the Bill of Co-operative Societies. And then there is the Anti-Bigamous Marriages Bill which is pending before us. There is yet another important Bill named Anti-Dowry Bill which is yet pending before us. (*Interruptions*). I think this Government is incapable of passing any measure which may be for the betterment of the lot of poor people. When Mahatma Gandhi said that he wanted to bring about Ram Raj over here, he meant to improve the lot of rural people. Now this Gaon Panchayat Bill is for the benefit of the rural people.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should speak to the motion.

Shri Buja Ram Bhagat : I was submitting, Madam, that Gaon Panchayat Bill, Co-operative Societies Bill and Anti-Bigamous Marriages Bill are Bills which would benefit the poor people of villages. These Bills should, therefore, be passed before the House is adjourned *sine die*.

Secondly, I want to submit that Ram Chanderji exiled Sitaji for twelve years on the basis of the opinion of a Dhobi. But here the Government pays no heed to what the public is saying. The poor people who suffered many hardships during the regime of the British Government, are even now growning under the weight of

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poverty and hunger. They are dying of starvation. If steps are not taken to satisfy their hunger, a revolution is inevitable. Raja Bhoj used to go about incognito during night time to know the hardships of the public. But our Government does not care to know the difficulties of the poor people. As our hon. Chief Minister pointed out, 85 per cent of our population lives in villages. But I am sorry to say that this Government is not doing anything for the benefit of the rural people. If justice is not done to the poor people, they would become uncontrollable. In one Tehsil, Bajra is selling at Rs. 8 a maund and in another people are dying of hunger. I am a poor man and I represent poor people. I, therefore, request the Government to do something for the poor people. It should also pay attention to the hard lot of peons living at Simla.

Sardar Swaran Singh : On a point of order, Madam. I want to draw your attention to the fact that there is no relevancy in what is being said by the hon. Member. It is not relevant to the matter under discussion.

Deputy Speaker : I am thankful to you for drawing my attention to this fact. But still I think Bhagat Buja Ram has been in the right to draw the attention of the Government towards these things.

Hon. Members : Question may now be put.

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Question be now put.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I don't wish to answer all the criticism that has been levelled against this motion because I consider some of the points to be trivial. I would like to confine myself to the important issues. In fact, it is either through the Government or through the private members' Bills that legislation is generally passed. Whenever Government considers that some laws are desired and some changes

are required, it brings in a Bill to that effect. I can say with confidence that ever since this Assembly came into existence, the Government has brought in as many Bills as were required. It has been stated that the Assembly should pass more Bills. But I am at a loss to understand that when the Government does not feel the necessity of passing any Bills, what Bills the hon. Member expects it to bring in? As regards private Members' Bills, without casting any reflection I wish to bring it to the notice of the House that once it so happened that only one such Bill was received and after sending that to the Select Committee, no other Bill was received. This shows what interest those hon. Members, who generally indulge in all sorts of criticism against the Government, take in this direction. So far as the resolutions of this House are concerned, I don't find any resolution which was actually passed by this House and upon which the Government did not take any action whatsoever. The hon. Members are aware of the procedure with regard to such Bills and resolutions in the House and I would like to point out that all steps are taken to follow it. It has been stated by one of the hon. Members that nothing is being done by the Government towards compulsory primary education in the State. I wish to inform the House that the Government has as earnest a desire as the hon. Members themselves to achieve this objective, but it is handicapped by lack of funds. We are not alone in this matter. Even other States of India have not been able to spare funds for this important activity.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : What about Bombay ?

Chief Minister : In that respect we have also got a law by which local bodies have been empowered to introduce compulsory primary education in their respective jurisdictions if they so desire.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order. I wish to inform the Government that in Bombay Compulsory Primary Education is going to be introduced by stages. It has been made compulsory for all those villages having a population of more than one thousand.

Deputy Speaker . This is not a point of order. As a matter of fact the Chief Minister of a State is expected to have such information.

Chief Minister : Madam, I was saying that in Punjab Primary Education is undertaken by local bodies, such as District Boards and Municipal Committees. The Government gives grants to them. There are certain Municipal Committees which have introduced Compulsory Primary Education. But so far no District Board has done so. For the information of these hon. Members who say that the Government does not give effect to resolutions passed by this House, I wish to point out that it was at the initiative of the Government itself that this résolution was brought before the House. As a matter of fact when they approached me I suggested them to pass such a resolution. But now they wish to take credit for this and to discredit the Government itself.

Another criticism which has been made is with regard to the ordinances. Many things have been said in this connection. It has been alleged that the Government does not want to bring the ordinances before the House. In my opinion the criticism regarding ordinances is not based upon a proper understanding of the procedure and I am sorry to note that some of the hon. Members do not know as to which ordinances are brought before the House and which are not. For the information of such hon. Members I would like to state that if an ordinance is not brought before the House in the form of a Bill it automatically lapses after the expiry of six weeks from the date of the meeting of the Assembly. So, if it is the intention of the Government to enforce the provisions of an ordinance even after that date, it has to bring it in the form of a Bill, before the House. If the Government does not want to keep an ordinance alive it is not placed before the House and it automatically lapses. So my submission is that the hon. Members should not worry on that score. If the Government considers that a law should be enforced and it deems it necessary to resort to legislation for that purpose, it never fails to act. But the Government never wants to waste the time and energy of the House on unnecessary and unimportant work.

We are quite vigilant in this regard because we know that lapsing of an ordinance due to carelessness is bound to land the Government into difficulties. It is a pity that my hon. Friends hurl accusations at the door of the Government without going deep into the matter. I think they have failed to make out a case because the

argument they have advanced against the adjournment of the House on this ground, does not hold water.

Besides this, it has been stated that the hon. Ministers want to run away from the House and that is why they are bringing the Assembly session to a close. May I enquire, where will they go? I may tell the hon. Members that the hon. Ministers cannot afford to sit idle. They have to discharge their onerous duties, whether they go down to the plains and work in the fields or they attend the Assembly session. But so far as my hon. Friends are concerned, they have to work only as long as the House remains in session, otherwise they are free to do anything. As regards Ministers, the matter does not stop there. Do the hon. Members think that during the Assembly session the hon. Ministers cease to do any office work and make themselves busy with the Assembly work only? No, that is not the case. They continue to perform their official duties side by side with the legislative work. n view of this it is most uncharitable on the part of my hon. Friends to make allegation against the hon. Ministers that they cannot face the House and so they want to run away by adjourning the House. Then, Madam, on the one hand a serious charge is levelled against the hon. Ministers that they go on tours with a view to drawing large amounts of travelling allowance and on the other it is said that they want to play the truant. I have no mind to speak in the same language in which my hon. Friends accused the Ministers for drawal of travelling allowances, for I have the highest respect for the dignity of the House as well as that of theirs.' I would only say that the hon. Ministers do not undertake tours simply for the sake of T. A. It is their bounden duty to see things for themselves in their true perspective and contact the masses with a view to hearing and redressing their grievances. In this connection my hon. Friend over there remarked that the Ministers were fiddling here like Nero, while our rural areas were burning like Rome. He hinted that the Ministers were cosily snugged here and did not care to see that a conflagration had overtaken the rural areas of the State. He was of the opinion that so long as we did not go there, we would not be in a position to assess the acuteness of the situation. Now with that very object we want to adjourn the House so that the hon. Ministers may be enabled to go to the plains. I fail to understand how they reconcile their own conflicting views. If we proceed on tours, then our *bona-fides* are suspected. But if we stay here, we are taunted that while we enjoy the bracing climate of Simla, the people in the plains are suffering. I may point out that on two occasions I have tried

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to do my duty. Last year when the floods had caused havoc in the State, I visited the flood-stricken areas. The other occasion was when the locusts invaded a number of districts and devastated our lands to a considerable extent. I personally went to visit the work for destruction of locusts in the districts of Hoshiarpur and Jullundur. I can assure the House that my visits had a very salutary effect on the work as it was carried out by the officers with greater vigour. But despite this, it is said that we do not put in any work and enjoy life unmindful of the difficulties of the people. They try to judge our work by the amount of legislation passed by this House. I think that this is a mistaken notion. Government is quite wide awake and it enacts all those important measures which are necessary for carrying on the administrative work of the State and are also intended to improve the hard lot of the people. I feel, it is unfair on the part of my hon. Friends to say that we shirk work and therefore we are adjourning the House.

Then, Madam, it has been remarked that the Government has failed to introduce prohibition in the State. What I want to say in this connection is this.

Sardar Swaran Singh : On a point of order. Since the motion under discussion is with regard to the adjournment of the House *sine die*, I think the hon. Leader of the House need not reply to the irrelevant things mentioned in the debate, because this reply is as irrelevant to the motion, as were those irrelevant charges, which he is trying to rebut. The policy of the Government regarding prohibition has no connection with the motion under consideration.

Deputy Speaker : I endorse the desire of the hon. Member regarding the quality of speeches. I wish that the speeches and the replies were more coherent and suitable. I expect from the hon. Chief Minister that he would give best replies couched in the shortest but most suitable words.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : On a point of order, Madam. The hon. Member, Sardar Swaran Singh has pointed out that the hon. Chief Minister was not relevant and so the Chair should have given ruling on

this point and not expressed its desire regarding the coherence and suitability of the speeches and the replies made thereto.

Deputy Speaker: If the hon. Member Shri Bhim Sen Sachar had heard my reply, he would not have raised this point of order. What I meant was that I appreciated the feeling of the hon. Member, Sardar Swaran Singh, that it was not necessary for the hon. Chief Minister to make a reply to all the irrelevant things said in the debate.

Sardar Swaran Singh: And that a reply to such things also becomes irrelevant to the motion under consideration.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: What is the ruling of the Chair ?

Deputy Speaker: It is, that irrelevant things should not be mentioned.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: The ruling is needed on the point whether the hon. Chief Minister is irrelevant or not ?

Deputy Speaker: He is not irrelevant. I am hearing him with rapt attention.

Chief Minister: If my hon. Friends had exercised a little patience, they would have realised that I would be the last person to mention irrelevant things. You will perhaps remember, Madam, that at the very outset of my speech I made it clear that I would not be able to reply to most of the irrelevant things said on the floor of the House. My hon. Friends had advanced this argument that they opposed the motion on the ground that Government failed to bring certain Bills for enactment into law. That is a relevant argument and it is my duty that I should make a reply to it. Just as it was relevant to make a reference to Ordinance No. 1, similarly it is essential and I feel called upon to reply to the point raised regarding prohibition. But before I proceed with that, I would like to make a mention of one important thing, and that is this. I think, while making speeches, we should refrain from bringing in the names of revered personages, like the Father of the Nation, because most of the criticism is made by making a reference to them. If the reply is given in tho same strain, there is a

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likelihood of a reflection, derogatory to their dignity, being cast. We should take care not to make frequent references to them. Now taking up the thread, it has been stated that prohibition has been introduced in the States of Bombay and Madras. They have also separated Judiciary from the Executive, while we have utterly failed in this regard. My hon. Friends have raised these objections without thinking whether it is possible for us to separate Judiciary from Executive and to introduce total prohibition in the State.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Is he relevant ?

Deputy Speaker : Yes, he is relevant. I wish the hon. Member were a little attentive. He is in a mood different from that of mine in which I am hearing the speech

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I must be permitted to record my very humble but strong protest against the aspersions that the Chair has been pleased to cast on me. It is absolutely not within the province of the Chair to cast reflections on an hon. Member of the House, and to say that an hon. Member is not in a particular mood to listen. This shows that the Chair willingly and knowingly wants to cast aspersions on an hon. Member of this House. I humbly but very strongly protest against the remarks of the Chair.

Deputy Speaker : I want to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that when the hon. Chief Minister was making his speech, he was busy talking to Sardar Swaran Singh. He was, therefore, not attentive. while I was attentively hearing it and marking the relevancy of the subject. That is why I ruled that the hon. Chief Minister was relevant.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : Madam, I am afraid you have again been pleased to cast aspersions on me by saying that I was not attentive. I was all attention, and I was hearing the hon. Chief Minister when he was speaking. I only raised the point of order that he was not relevant and the Chair was pleased to make certain remarks. My hearing or not hearing has nothing to do with it. May I humbly submit that the Chair will be so kind as not to cast aspersions and use any remarks against any hon. Member unless he deserves those remarks. If the conduct of an hon. Member is not in order, the Chair is perfectly in

order to name the Member and to ask him to leave the House. But I am entitled to my rights so long as I sit in this House.

Deputy Speaker : I would like to inform the hon. Member Shri Bhim Sen Sachar that if he has misunderstood me and he takes any objection to what I have said, then I have no hesitation in withdrawing those words. But all the same I would like to inform the hon. Member that he addressed the Chair in a different tone.

Shri Bhim Sen Sachar : I must protest against this remark. (*Interruptions.*)

Deputy Speaker : Order, order. No interruptions please.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : But Shri Sachar is not sweet in his protest. (*Noise and interruptions*).

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. I want to ....

Minister for Public Works : On a point of order, Madam. I would request you to ask the 'cow from Gurdaspur' to maintain order. She' is making noise.

Deputy Speaker : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that the points of order raised on the 19th instant by some of them on my ruling were not right. The ruling which I had given at that time was right while the hon. Members who said different things through points of order were wrong. The hon. Members know it full well that whatever is said and done here on the floor of this House becomes known to the people outside through the press. I would request the hon. Members not to make this House a laughing stock of the world outside by uttering derogatory remarks against each other.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Nobody laughs at us.

Deputy Speaker : I would request the hon. Members not to interrupt while the hon. Chief Minister is already on his legs.

Sardar Joginder Singh Mann : On a point of order, Madam. I would like to submit that if you will talk less than you have been doing, things will surely go through easily and thus no one will get an opportunity to laugh at us and nor will the pressmen get any opportunity to publish any bad reports about us.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, Madam. I would request you to ask the hon. Member, Sardar Joginder Singh Mann, to withdraw the remarks made by him just now as these remarks cast serious reflection and aspersion on the dignity of the Chair.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Madam, I also subscribe to the view expressed by my hon. Friend Sardar Shiv Saran Singh. The hon. Member should be asked to withdraw these remarks.

Sardar Joginder Singh Mann : I would like to submit that if my hon. Friends are of the opinion that my remarks are not in keeping with the dignity of the Chair, then I have no hesitation in withdrawing what I have said. (*Noise and interruptions*).

Minister for Public Works : On a point of order, Madam........ (*Noise*).

Deputy Speaker : Order, order.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. May I now if it is the privilege of the hon. Minister to challenge your ruling and whether it is his privilege to be rude and obstinate towards the orders of the Chair.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : On a point of order, Madam. Is it parliamentary to use the word 'she' for a male member as has already been done by the hon. Minister for Public Works ? I want your ruling if it is the privilege of the hon. Minister to make such remarks.

Minister for Public Works : I never said that. I have only used the word 'she' for a cow from Gurdaspur. However, if the hon. Member thinks that it was meant for him, then I am prepared to withdraw it.

Chief Minister : Madam, I have no intention to refer to all the Bills one by one which it has been stated have not been brought under discussion with a view to placing them on the Statute Book.

Since I want to reply to the objections raised by my hon. Friends in the course of their speeches, I am afraid, I may not get time to refer to these Bills at this stage.

Sardar Bachan Singh : What about those Bills which have been referred to by His Excellency the Governor in his Address? (*Interruptions*).

Chief Minister : There is no doubt about it that certain Bills which were intended to be placed on the Statute Book, during the current Session have not been enacted so far. It was not possible to do so due to certain reasons.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : On a point of Order, Madam. I do not know the ruling of the Chair on the protest made by Shri Sachar. I would like to know your ruling.

Deputy Speaker : Has Shri Sachar authorised the hon. Member to speak on his behalf? Please resume your seat.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : Is that your ruling. (*Laughter*).

Deputy Speaker : Order, order. Please allow the hon. Chief Minister to proceed with his speech.

Chief Minister : Madam, I would like to submit that we have placed those Bills which we considered necessary on the Statute Book. There are certain Bills which have been dropped simply because it is not our intention to force our successors after the next general elections to adopt our measures. I would like to make this point clear for the information of the hon. Members that it is not the intention of the Government to place some of the Bills on the agenda which if passed into law may be repealed by our successors for being faulty and defective. That is why the Gaon Panchayat Bill has not been taken up.

It has been stated that the Bill regarding Co-operation has been placed in the cold storage. I would like to submit for the information of the hon. Members that the Bills regarding Co-operation and Public Health have been published for eliciting public opinion. After eliciting public opinion these Bills would be referred to select committees. After the receipt of the reports of the select committees, these Bills would be placed before the House

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and passed into law. I may also add here that since two Bills were very important it was necessary to elicit public opinion thereon.

Further some mention has also been made about the Gaon Panchayat Bill. So far as this Bill is concerned, I would like to point out that some of my hon. Friends are of the opinion that this is not the opportune time to effect any drastic changes through this Bill and that it would be better if we wait for some time more. It is because of this fact that we dropped this Bill.

Further it has been stated that the legislation is more important than the Budget. Here I would like to submit for the information of the hon. Members that it is the statutory obligation of the Government to present the Budget but there is no such obligation with regard to legislative business. As a matter of fact we bring forward such Bills as are deemed to be necessary. It has also been stated by some of my hon. Friends that Government is doing nothing and that it has no value of time. Does it mean that the Government is wasting time simply because it does not bring forward some Bills for the consideration of the House ? After all the Government has not only to bring in legislation but has also to run the day to day administration of the State. It is not the function of the Government to enact legislation only ; it has to look to the other administrative affairs as well.

As a matter of fact the value of time is greater to him who has to work more. Otherwise, Madam, I may say with your permission that the House has taken about 2¼ hours for this ordinary motion which should have been disposed of in a few minutes. Besides this, it has been pointed out to me that we should have disposed of to day's agenda. If my hon. Friend had waited a little longer he would have known that all the important Bills will be discussed and passed today. I am bringing forward a motion for non-stop sitting of the Assembly till the business on the agenda is completed. It has been said that the Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill sponsored by Shrimati Sita Devi is pending and the Government should have taken credit for passing this Bill. The hon. Lady Member seems to have a grouse against the Government as her Bill has not been passed. In her private talk with me she told me that the Government may or may not pass this Bill and in case it is not passed she would show to the world that such a reformative measure has not been passed by the Government. I think the hon. Lady Member wants to take credit for this Bill if it is passed or otherwise to expose the Government.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Madam, I would draw your attention to the remarks made by the hon. Chief Minister that the hon. lady Member wants to take credit for herself if the Hindu Bigamous Marriages Bill is passed. I think this is a reflection on the hon. lady Member.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Relevant remarks are always permissible.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Chief Minister has referred to the private talk which he had with the hon. Lady Member. It is better that he should avoid making such remarks.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order, Madam. You have always been stressing upon the hon. Members to maintain the dignity of the House. If any Member makes any remarks against the Ministers he is asked to withdraw them. Now when the Chief Minister has imputed motives againstme he should be asked to withdraw these remarks.

Chief Minister : The hon. Lady Member may take credit for herself and if the Government has not been able to achieve credit and earn popularity by passing this Bill, I think our reputation will not be at stake in the eyes of the world on this account. -Then, Madam, it has been remarked that I should have reached Amritsar on the day when information with regard to police excesses was passed on to me. I think it is not humanly possible to visit the spot where crimes are committed and provide a solution there and then. When any such happenings take place it is the duty of the officers on the spot to take necessary steps to control the situation. It is also objectionable for the Chief Minister to go to the spot and make necessary enquiries himself. If according to the suggestion of my hon. Friend I had made enquiries then he would have levelled a charge against me for interfering in the administrative matters. The police officers were suspended and put under arrest within two days. Necessary steps have been taken in this behalf and the case is *sub judice*. The Government machinery worked with promptitude and took very little time to challan the persons who were guilty of the offence. Then, Madam, it has been remarked that the Gaon Panchayat Bill has not been passed and for this reason the price of bajra in the Hissar district has shot up. I really fail to undestand how this situation has any connection with the legislative business. I see no logic in the argument advanced by my hon. Friend that as Gaon Panchayat Bill has been postponed the price of bajra in Loharu State has gone up. Supply of foodgrains is ordinarily made through the Co-operative Societies. If Co-operative Societies are not formed and supplies are not obtained through them then the Government should not be blamed for this. I know there is a general tendency among

[Chief Minister]

the people to throw the entire blame at the door of the Government whenever anything tends to go amiss and without realizing their own responsibility, they blame the Government. If my hon. Friend really feels the shortage of bajra in Loharu, then co-operative societies should be formed for distribution of food-grains. The Government took steps to send wagons of bajra but in spite of this my hon. Friend has made criticism against the Government, that by bringing forward a motion for adjournment of the Assembly *sine die*, delay has been caused in supplying bajra at Loharu. I have not been able to understand the queer logic of my hon. Friend. It would have been better if he had studied the Bills before entering into such discussion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: On a point of order, Madam. The hon Chief Minister has remarked that the hon. Member should have studied the Bills before-hand. This is a reflection on the hon. Member. He should be asked to withdraw these words.

Deputy Speaker: This is no point of order.

Shri Buja Ram Bhagat: Madam, The hon. Chief Minister has attributed to me certain remarks which I never said. I did not say that the price of bajra has increased because Gaon Panchayat Bill has been postponed. What I said was that this Bill should be passed. I also said that there is people's indignation and resentment towards the Government because they feel that the Government is becoming more and more indifferent towards them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Madam, may I know if the hon. Chief Minister is prepared to withdraw his remarks ?

Deputy Speaker: I don't think he has made any remark which he should be made to withraw.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Hasn't he said that the hon. Members make speeches without first reading the Bills or making any preparation ? Is it not a reflection on the House as a whole ?

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member must admit that some of the hon. Members do make speeches without any previous preparation.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: But not all.

Deputy Speaker: I don't allow your point of order.

Chief Minister : I have not cast any reflection on the House though my hon. Friend has very cleverly stretched my remark to give it this interpretation. The very idea of casting reflections on the House can never enter my mind. Now, Madam, I want to make only one more submission and after that I shall resume my seat. My venerable and old colleague Shri Kidar Nath has stated that if I ac upon his suggestions, he would not only favour me with his good wishes but his support also. I want to assure him that it is my most heartfelt desire to follow the path shown by my revered seniors and I have the greatest respect for their advice and opinions while discharging the duties assigned to me. It is a matter of deep regret to me as well that he is not yet so much satisfied with the state of affairs as to doff his black garments which originally be had a mind to do away with on the achievement of independence. I assure him that if he indicates what we should do to make him put off these garments we shall do our utmost to accomplish it. As regards his other objections, I don't think it is the right occasion to reply to them. I don't say they were not relevant since you have ruled otherwise. With these words I request the House to pass the motion that is now before us.

Deputy Speaker: Question is :

That the Assembly at its rising today shall stand adjourned *sine-die*

The Assembly divided. Ayes: 44. Noes: 3

AYES

1. Ajit Singh, Sardar.
2. Amar Nath Vidyalankar, Shri.
3. Badlu Ram, Chaudhri.
4. Behari Lal Chanana, Shri.
5. Beli Ram, Thakur.
6. Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri.
7. Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
8. Bhagwan Dass, Shri.
9. Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar.
10. Dalip Singh, Thakur.
11. Gopi Chand Bhargava, The Honourable Dr.
12. Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, Sardar.
13. Ishar Singh Mujhail, The Honourable Sardar.
14. Jagdish Chander, Chaudhri.
15. Joginder Singh Mann, Sardar.
16. Kabul Singh, Sardar.
17. Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.

18. Kartar Singh, The Honourable Sardar.
19. Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
20. Lahri Singh, Chaudhri.
21. Matu Ram, Chaudhri.
22. Mohar Singh, Rao.
23. Narinder Singh, Sant.
24. Narotam Singh, The Honourable Sardar.
25. Pancham Chand, The Honourable Thakur.
26. Parkash Kaur, Shrimati Dr.
27. Partap Singh, Sardar.
28. Prabodh Chandra, Shri.
29. Prithvi Singh Azad, The Honourable Shri.
30. Ranjit Singh, The Honourable Captain.
31. Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri.
32. Sahib Ram, Chaudhri.
33. Samar Singh, Chaudhari.
34. Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
35. Sarmukh Singh, Sardar.
36. Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.
37. Shiv Singh, Sardar.
38. Sita Devi, Shrimati.
39. Swaran Singh, Sardar.
40. Sudarshan, Seth.
41. Sundar Lal, Chaudhri.
42. Tara Singh, Sardar.
43. Virendra, Shri.
44. Waryam Singh, Sardar.

NOES

1. Bachan Singh, Sardar.
2. Ranbir Singh, Mehta.
3. Sajjan Singh, Sardar.

MOTION UNDER RULE 12 (3) (c)

Chief Minister : I beg to move :

That the proceedings on the following items of Business appearing on the list of Business for today be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the Rule "Sittings of the Assembly" :—

(1) The Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill, 1951.

(2) The East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill, 1951.

(3) That the order proposed to be issued in regard to the increase in the existing rates of entertainments duty levied under the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1936, which was laid upon the Table of the House on the 7th March 1951, be taken into consideration and passed.

(4) The Punjab Forward Contracts Bill 1951.

(5) The Punjab Prohibition of Smoking (Cinema and Theatre Halls) Bill 1950

(6) The East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill.

The motion was carried.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*). (At this stage Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by *Shri Ram Sharma a member of the panel of Chairmen*). Sir, I was stating yesterday that Amritsar was a border town and that this border town suffered a great damage owing to the communal disturbances. In addition to the evacuee property, numerous buildings of the citizens of this State were also unfortunately burnt down. These people whose property was destroyed deserved some sympathy from the Government. But the fact is that this Government has no sympathy for anybody. It is concerned with its own enjoyments. This Government has, as a matter of fact, tried to derive benefit out of the miseries of the distressed people. It has appropriated some valuable materials for example, girders etc. which have been found from the debris. This is not all. A white elephant in the form of the Improvement Trust is being thrust on them. This Improvement Trust will consist of a number of officials who will work not in the interests of the public but in their own interest. The creation of this Trust is tantamount to creating a vested interest. The officials of the Trust will do their level best to prolong their periods of service. And then the Government will also not be very careful in supervising their work as their salaries are to come from the pockets of the public and are not to be paid from the Government coffers. So any number of these officers will have a happy time. A Punjabi adage says :

गुरु जी चेले ज़िआदा हो गए ने ।
भई आपे लुट पुट के खा लैणगे ।।
ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਚੇਲੇ ਜ਼ਿਆਦਾ ਹੋ ਗਏ ਨੇ ।
ਭਈ ਆਪੇ ਲੁਟ ਪੁਟ ਕੇ ਖਾ ਲੈਣਗੇ ।।

For these reasons I suggest that all the expenditure that is to be incurred in this connection should not be realized from the distressed people. The second thing that I wish to point out is this that compensation should be paid to the owners of the damaged buildings for the structures that remain and have not been burnt down.

The Government says that it wishes to enforce this scheme for the benefit of the people of Amritsar and that it will result in appreciation of the prices of land and other property situated in that city. The people who will be affected by this Bill have not been consulted in this connection. Their views have been completely ignored. Some hon. Members spoke about Ram Rajya. It was said that on account of the views of one person, Ram exiled Sita for a number of years. Here, however nobody cares for the views of the people. This Rajya is worse than Ravan Rajya even, because in that Rajya also the human beings were not treated so badly.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member should be relevent.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I was saying that those who do not treat the human beings properly are called demons. I was asking the Government to give better treatment to those whose properties would be acquired by it.

Then, Sir, I wish to point out that in the note of dissent appended by me to the report of the select committee on this Bill, there is a misprint. Clause 13 has been misprinted as Clause 3. This is an important matter because my hon. Sister Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur and I were unable to agree with the explanation to Clause 13.

Whenever some person's property is acquired by the Government, he has to be paid its market value. The Government has agreed to pay compensation for the property to be acquired by it, but what it will pay with one hand it will take away with the other. At the time of computing the amount of compensation, the cost of removal of debris and demolition of the structure will be deducted from the market value of the property. If these buildings are being put to some use, why should not the owners thereof be paid full market value ? Justice demands that they should get it in full. If, however, the Government wishes to do some other thing and wants to recover the cost of that, nobody can prevent it from acting in that manner because it believes in the strength of votes and not in principles. This would not be fair and just. Those who have already suffered heavily should not be burdened with more expenditure.

Another thing which I wish to point out is this that those whose properties are acquired should be paid the amount of compensation at once. It is not fair to postpone its payment for two or three years. Do not the finances of the Government permit it to make payment of compensation promptly ?

Mr. Chairman: I request the hon. Members not to stand and talk with each other in the Chamber, they should go to the lobbies.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: I was submitting that those whose properties are acquired by the Government should be paid market value for the same. The Government will perhaps say that they wish to pay more, but the market value at least should be paid immediately. People know that the Government holds out false promises and never fulfils them. They will not be satisfied with false hopes. Acting on ordinary principles of justice, the Government should pay the market value of the property acquired by it, at once. It should not use this

measure as an election stunt and tell people that it has the power to determine the amount of compensation as it pleases. Such things are never done in democratic countries. It does not become a Government to demoralise the public. I hope that the Government will give a proof of its sincerity by accepting the principle referred to by me.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh (Rohtak North, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) Mr. Chairman, the people of Amritsar suffered incalculable losses on account of the damage done to their properties by incendiary bombs or arson, during the riots. The Government had great sympathy with them and it expressed a desire to compensate them for the losses suffered by them. Now I find that instead of compensating them, they are being burdened with more expenditure. The people of Amritsar who will be affected by this measure have made several representations and have pointed out various difficulties to which the Government must pay proper attention. I was a member of the select committee to which this Bill was referred. In that committee when we enquired from the officers concerned as to which areas of Amritsar would be affected by this Bill, they told us that mostly the evacuee property would be covered by it. There was nobody to repair or look after that property.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha: On a point of order, Sir. The House is not in quorum.

Mr. Chairman: The House is in quorum.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh: We were given the assurance that most of the property affected by this Bill was evacuee property and since there was nobody to look after that property, it was sought to be improved by the Trust. But now when we go through this Bill, we come to the conclusion that the people whose houses have been burnt during the disturbances and now only their sites are left, are not in a position to bear the expenses of the improvement of those areas. Naturally the Government would get this work of improvement of damaged areas done through contracts. This would involve more expenditure than that which would be incurred if the work is done by the individuals themselves. For instance, if the work of the removal of debris is done by the Government, it would employ big machinery such as bulldozers etc., which means heavy expenditure. The Government has no other means of getting this work done except through contracts. The Government has not sufficient labour. It will have to get it done through contracts. I think, a huge amount will be spent on the removal of debris and that amount might not be recovered

[Ch. Lahri Singh]

even after the sale of the sites. There is very little hope of any profit out of the sale of these sites. And then the Government did not consult the owners before removing the debris of the damaged houses. How can it now be justified to put the burden of that expenditure on the owners. The Government thought it advisable to remove the debris during the days of disturbances. I am certain, no owner is in a position to pay the expenses of the removal of that debris. Moreover, the Government has no right to charge this expenditure from the owners in view of the fact that it was incurred without consulting them. Even if it is admitted that some houses which are damaged should be demolished, the owners who have already suffered a lot during the disturbances cannot pay for the removal of the debris. When so much is being spent on the rehabilitation of displaced persons, I see no reason why the improvement of damaged areas of Amritsar should not be done by the Government under the Rehabilitation scheme. Besides this, the Government should draw plans of the roads and parks of the city. If any owner of a site is prepared to build his house according to that plan, he should be allowed to do so. His land should not be auctioned and he should be allowed to build his house according to the plan. Such an amendment will have to be made in the Bill, at least in the case of Amritsar. There are people who are living on the rents of their houses over there. These people will have no say in the matter of improvement of their houses, if the work is done directly by the Public Works Department. They would be only helpless spectators. This is not fair. It is also unfair that an individual who has already suffered much should be forced to pay a certain sum. Under these circumstances, I want that more unnecessary burden should not be put on the people of Amritsar whose houses were damaged during the disturbances. If the Government wants to get land from them for roads and parks, they would not mind that. But whatever land is acquired for these purposes should be paid for after determining its market value. It is not proper that their land should be got from them and a huge expenditure for the removal of debris should be charged from them. I want that the Bill should be simplified in the matter of acquisition of properties by the Government. For this purpose, public should be taken into confidence. Some committee of the affected property holders should be consulted. If conflicts are reated in the towns of this small State, the things would become very difficult. I, therefore, want that the Government should give reasonable facilities to the people in the matter of acquisition of their houses by the Government.

(*At this stage Deputy Speaker resumed the chair.*)

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) (*Hindi*), Madam, as I submitted yesterday the object of this Bill is to carry out repairs of the damaged areas like Amritsar in accordance with a set scheme. I am surprised to hear the points of criticism that have been raised against this Bill, on the floor of this House. What is most surprising is the view expressed by the hon. Members from Amritsar itself, that this Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon and that for the present its discussion should be postponed. This is the most important matter to which I would like to refer here. On this point I should give expression to the views held by the Government. The hon. Members are aware of the fact that this Bill was the first item on the agenda. But only half an hour is left for its discussion, according to the usual time of adjournment of the House. Much of the time has been taken by the Members on other matters which were irrelevant. What is more disappointing is that none of the hon Members who levelled criticism against this Bill is actually present now when the discussion is going to start clause by clause.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order. The hon. Minister is making a mis-statement. The facts are that Pandit Faqir Chand, Sardar Bachan Singh and I made speeches and all of us are present in the House.

Deputy Speaker : Pandit Faqir Chand is coming in just now. You are a thin and lean person and the hon. Minister might have missed to see you. (*laughter*)

Shri Prabodh Chandra : If the hon. Minister is unable te see me it would be better for him to resign.

Minister for Public Works : Madam, I was going to say that while on the one hand it is alleged that these persons have not been provided facilities for settling down during the last three years or so, on the other hand when any steps are taken in this direction, the Government is opposed by these very persons. As a matter of fact such critics do not appear to realize the difficulties which the Government has to face in the matter of acquisition of land etc. The hon. Members are aware that in 1919 during the days of martial law in Punjab the records of the Municipal Committee Amritsar were burnt and the Government was left without any means of ascertaining facts about property. We have no records pertaining to the property of those who have left for Pakistan and those whose property has been damaged by fire etc. during the riots. In the absence of such records it is but natural that some other, than the normal procedure of Land Acquisition Act should be adopted. The main object of bringing in this Bill is to enable the

[Minister for Public Works]

Government to follow such a procedure for acquisition etc. so that the difficulties that the Government face may be reduced. Therefore I think that the suggestion of postponing this Bill is not a happy one because it is not in the interests of those who have suffered on account of their properties being in these areas. In fact the interests of such persons demand that this scheme should be taken up as soon as possible. So this Bill has been brought in with the intention of executing some such schemes for their benefit. The proposal of postponement is not a sound one and if the hon. Members who have put it forward were to reconsider it they will themselves find it out that it does not serve the interests of those persons. In fact this Bill is the only practical method of settling such persons and compensating them for the losses they suffered during the riots. An objection has been raised against the provision of three years' period during which the Improvement Trust can submit its statement to the Government. I don't think this time limit to be excessive because we have no lamp of Allah Din with which to erect buildings overnight. After all it takes time to accomplish such things. We are not in a dreamland. Still I would like to assure the hon. Members that after the passing of this Act it will not take long for the Government to put such schemes into actual practice. Besides, some other things have been said by the hon. Members, regarding the construction of roads and such other matters. In this connection it will not be out of place to mention here that necessary provisions have been made in the Bill itself dealing with such matters. The Government will take all such things into consideration while implementing the schemes. Relevant complaints and objections will be heard sympathetically on such schemes and the points of view of the persons concerned will have a due influence in the moulding of such schemes. I have already submitted that the Government will try to take into confidence the hon. Members also in the matters concerning Improvement Trusts and any suggestion from them will be considered. Shri Prabodh Chandra has stated that no provision has been made to know the views of the people concerned in the matter of compensation to be awarded to them. But as a matter of fact such provisions are there in the Bill. It requires only a bit of careful study of the Bill. The persons affected are given an opportunity of putting forward their objections, if any. It is for the Collector to assess compensation and the owners will have even a right to approach the Tribunals if they so like. In the presence of such a provision how can the hon. Member say that in the matter of awarding compensation due regard has not been paid to the views of the persons to be compensated ?

Shri Prabodh Chandra : May I know the clause which makes such a provision ?

Minister for Public Works : Clause 14 provides the procedure for the filing of the award of the Collector. Clause 15 refers to the way in which the Trust may make reference to the Tribunal. In clause 19 it has been provided that the persons interested may require reference to Tribunals.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : But clause 19 (2) restricts the scope of such reference.

Minister for Public Works : I shall reply to such points when the clause itself comes under discussion.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Deputy Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1.

Sub-clauses 2 and 3.

Question is :

That sub-clauses 2 & 3 of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. The Members should be given an opportunity to raise discussion on the clauses of the Bill before they are put to the vote of the House.

Deputy Speaker : There could be no discussion of these Sub-clauses as there was no amendment put forward by any Member.

Shri Probodh Chandra : May I request you to give your ruling on the point whether an hon. Member can speak on any clause irrespective of the fact that he has given notice of any amendment or not ?

Deputy Speaker : Yes, any hon. Member, who desires to oppose a certain clause, can oppose it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Then I should be permitted to speak on the sub clauses to Clause No. 1.

Deputy Speaker I am sorry, I cannot grant permission, as they have already been carried out by the House.

Clauses 2-11.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That clause 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : On a point of order, Madam. I had given notice of amendments on these clauses and I request that I may be permitted to move them, before these clauses are put to the House.

Deputy Speaker : I am told that you had withdrawn those amendments and that you had no intention of moving them.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : Madam, the position is that yesterday when I gave notices of my amendments to this Bill, I told the Secretary of the Legislature that I intended to move them after having consulted the hon. Minister in charge of the Bill. That is, if he held out any assurance that the amendments would be accepted or that the spirit of these amendments would be incorporated in the Bill, then I might not move them. But since I could not have an opportunity to have a talk on the subject with the hon. Minister, I could not definitely decide and inform the Secretary whether I would be moving or withdrawing them. But I understand that it is not necessary to obtain the permission of the hon. Minister to move these amendments. Under the rules, I have a right to move and speak on them.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Lady Member would be permitted to move her amendments under the rules.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. I want your ruling on the point that when an amendment is before the House, it becomes the property of the House and that any hon. Member can speak on it.

Deputy Speaker : There was no need of raising this point of order. I have already permitted the hon. Lady Member Dr. Parkash Kaur to move her amendments. When they are moved, obviously the hon. Members will be permitted to participate in the debate.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I had to raise this point of order as I was under the impression that the hon. Lady Member intended to withdraw her amendments. As a matter of fact, I myself wanted to give notices of amendments of this nature, but seeing that she had already given notice of them, I gave up the idea as I thought I would get an opportunity to give expression to my views on these amendments. Now since these amendments have come on the agenda for today's meeting, I dont think the hon. Lady Member can now withdraw them at her own desire.

Deputy Speaker : The amendments are not yet before the House but it is in the discretion of the Chair to allow them to be moved or not. I have, however, permitted the hon. Lady Member to move her amendments and if she wants to withdraw them, she can do so with the permission of the House.

Clause 2.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : I move —

That in sub-clause (a) , line 14, between the words and figures "Act 1922" and "as the case", the following be added :
'as amended by this Act'.

Deputy Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved —
That in sub-clause (a), line 14, between the words and figures "Act 1922" and "as the case", the following be added :
'as amended by this Act'.

Minister for Public Works : I would request the hon. Lady Member not to press her amendment as, in my opinion, the clause, a it stands would prove more useful.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

Leave to withdraw was not granted.

Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That in sub-clause (a), line 14, between the words and figures "Act 1922" and "as the case" the following be added :
'as amended by this Act'

The motion was lost.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : I move —

That at the end of sub-clause (e) the following be added :
'as amended by this Act'.

The motion was lost.

Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 3

Dr. Sant Ram Seth (Amritsar City, General, Urban) I move —

That the following be added as proviso to the existing clause :—
Provided that the Improvement Trust shall not acquire land as a whole in the case of street schemes. Only as much piece of land or property of Hindus, Sikhs will be taken as is compulsorily needed for widening the road. The rest of the land will be left with property owners. The piece of land acquired for road will be exchanged primarily with land of the same value, site and area in the same locality if possible or sufficient compensation is given to the owner of land so acquired for widening of streets.

[Dr. Sant Ram Seth]

Madam, my purpose in moving this amendment is to consider the case of those people whose property or land would be acquired for widening the streets. The Improvement Trust proposes to acquire the land of those people, whose houses have either been damaged or burnt for widening the streets. What I want is that the piece of land acquired for road should be exchanged primarily with land of the same value, site and area in the same locality. And in case it is not possible to give land in exchange in the same locality, then sufficient compensation should be given to the owner.

Further I want that only as much piece of land should be acquired by the Improvement Trust as is compulsorily needed for widening the roads and streets. In case the hon. Minister-in-charge is prepared to give assurances to the effect that he would be prepared to consider my suggestion, then I will have no objection to withdraw my amendment.

Deputy Speaker : Clause under consideration amendment moved.

> Provided that the Improvement Trust shall not acquire land as a whole in the case of street schemes. Only as much piece of land or property of Hindus, Sikhs will be taken as is compulsorily needed for widening the road. The rest of the land will be left with the property owners. The piece of land acquired for land will be exchanged primarily with land of the same value, site and area in the same locality if possible or sufficient compensation is given to the owner of land so acquired for widening of streets.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural):—

Madam, the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Dr. Sant Ram Seth is replete with glaring defects. Madam, if you closely study the amendment, you will find such defects in it as would result in unnecessary litigation. It is mentioned in the amendment :—

> Provided that the Improvement Trust shall not acquire land as a whole in the case of street schemes.

Further it is mentioned therein :—

> Only as much piece of land or property of Hindus, Sikhs will be taken as is compulsorily needed for widening the road.

If this amendment is accepted by the House it will be passing a discriminatary legislation. Suppose the land of a Christian is to be acquired by the Improvement Trust for widening the Streets............

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. May I know if an hon. Member of this House can sit in the gallery which is specially reserved for the press. I want to know your ruling if an hon. Member can sit in the press gallery ?

Deputy Speaker : Is this a point of order. This point of order might as well be raised by the hon. Member, Chaudhri Lahri Singh.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : On a point of Order, Madam. I would like to submit that the more respect you show to the hon. Members the more will it add to the dignity of this august House. I respectfully submit that you have no business to refer to my name just to ridicule me. Madam, you are perfectly right in ordering an hon. Member to withdraw any words that you deem are likely to lower the prestige of the House. I strongly protest against my name being brought in unnecessarily. Again I respectfully submit that the dignity of the House is lowered if you pass such remarks. I would request you to pay due respect to the hon. Members and not to pass any remarks which may offend any hon. Member. My hon. Friend Shri Bhim Sen Sachar had also made a request to you in this behalf in order to maintain the dignity of the House.

Deputy Speaker : I would leave to the House to judge the attitude of Shri Bhim Sen Sachar. I had only remarked that if I were to give my ruling on every point of order that is raised by the hon Members than it will form a book of my rulings.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. We have elected you as the Deputy Speaker. It does not look well that you should leave any such matter for the House to decide. If you think that any of us has made some objectionable remarks you should ask us to withdraw those remarks and we shall withdraw any such remarks most willingly. We have given you a power of attorney. (*interruption*). You should not delegate your powers to the House. You had remarked before that if the House does not like you we may elect somebody else of our own choice as Deputy Speaker. I may submit that the House has already elected you unanimously. We would, therefore, request you not to give this high position to anyone else which you at present enjoy by unanimous vote of the House.

Deputy Speaker : Thanks for these remarks.

Chaudhri Lahri Singh : I would submit that if any hon. Member makes any remarks which in the opinion of the Chair are objectionable he should be asked to withdraw those remarks. But I must protest

[Ch. Lahri Singh]

against the Chair's remarks which are sometimes offensive. She has no right to pass such remarks against the hon. Members I would, therefore, request the Deputy Speaker to avoid making such remarks.

Deputy Speaker: I would request the House most respectfully that my respect is in fact the respect of the House. It rests upon the hon. Members to maintain the dignity of the House. If so many points of order are raised one after the other and my ruling is called for on every point or order, then I think a book will be written about my rulings. I may, however, point out to the hon. Members that I have not the least intention to offend anybody.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: My hon. Friend Chaudhri Lahri Singh had remarked that the Chair has no right to pass any remarks against the hon. Members. I beg to differ from my hon. Friend in this respect as I think the Chair has every right to do so. In fact the ruling of the Chair is an order to the hon. Members of this House. It would be better if the Chair would ask the hon. Member to withdraw these remarks.

Deputy Speaker: I would ask the hon. Members not to interrupt but help in transacting the business of the House, in an orderly manner.

Sardar Bachan Singh: Madam, I was referring to the amendment to clause 3 moved by Dr. Sant Ram Seth which provides that only as much piece of land or property of Hindus, Sikhs will be taken as is compulsorily needed for widening the road. In this connection, I may submit that our State is an integral part of the Indian Union and the Indian Union is a secular State. In the secular State there shall not be any discrimination on the ground of race, religion caste or creed. Equality before law is guaranteed for all whether one may be a Muslim, Bengali or a Parsi. The amendment is defective because as much piece of land or property of Hindus, Sikhs will be taken as is compulsorily needed for widening the road. The rest of the land will be left with property owners. Such a proviso will be repugnant to the provisions of the Constitution. I would now refer to the concluding portion of this amendment which says that ;

> The piece of land acquired for road will be exchanged primarily with the land of the same value, site and area in the same locality if possible or sufficient compensation is given to the owner of land so acquired for widening of streets.

It would mean that the land of Hindus and Sikhs which will be

acquired for road will be exchanged primarily with the land of the same value, site, and area in the same locality, and if, land of persons belonging to any other Community is acquired they would not be accorded the same. treatment which the Hindus and Sikhs would be accorded. It would, therefore, be amply clear that if this amendment is carried out then our State will not be a secular State but a State ruled by Hindus and Sikhs.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, I would draw your attention to the remarks made by the hon. Member that this is not a secular State but a State ruled by Hindus and Sikhs.

SardarBachan Singh : It appears that my hon. Friend has not paid any heed to what I said. I would, therefore, like to repeat the same for the information of the hon. Member. I said that our State is an integral part of the Indian Union and the Indian Union is a secular State. There cannot be any law in this Stat which makes discrimination on the ground of religion, race, caste or creed. So if this amendment is passed it would mean that this is no longer a secular State but a State ruled by Hindus and Sikhs.

Madam, there is another amendment on this very subject given notice of by Dr. Parkash Kaur, which is free from any defect. If the hon Mover of this amendment reads it carefully, he will agree with me that it will serve his purpose all right. In view of this, it would be better if he withdraws his amendment.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : If the Minister-in-Charge gives an assurance that the next amendment of Dr. Parkash Kaur will be accepted, I am prepared to withdraw it.

Deputy .Speaker : Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur may also move her amendment and both the amendments will be discussed together.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, Woman) (*Punjabi*) I move.

That the following be added as Proviso to the existing clause:

> Provided that the Improvement Trust shall not acquire land as a whole if the owner of the property agrees to develop the site according to the plan approved by the trust, only as much piece of land or property being taken as is compulsorily needed for widening the road, the rest being left with the owners. If the area of the property is, less than that required according to the approved plan the trust shall provide the additional area from the adjacent land.
>
> Provided also that the set-back may be applied equally on both sides of the road.

Madam, in moving this amendment, I have two objects in view. Firstly, I want that land should be given to the owners in lieu of land

[Sh. Dr. Parkash Kaur]

taken from them for street-widening etc. For this purpose evacuee land which is about 40% of the total area or land of those who don't want houses to be reconstructed for them and are prepared to accept cash compensation should be utilized. This is essential for safeguarding the interests of those sufferers who are anxious to have their houses reconstructed. Secondly I want that set-back may be applied equally on both sides while widening the roads.

Deputy Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved :

That the following be added to Proviso to the existing clause :

Provided that the Improvement Trust shall not acquire land as a whole if the owner of the property agrees to develop the site according to the plan approved by the Trust, only as much piece of land or property being taken as is compulsorily needed for widening the road, the rest being left with the owners. If the area of the property is less than that required according to the approved plan the trust shall provide the additional area from the adjacent land.

Provided also that the set-back may be applied equally on both sides of the road.

Now there are two amendments of the same purport before the House though the wording is different. Both of these may be discussed together.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I have risen to support the amendment moved by Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur because I think it will go some way towards giving consolation to the victims of riots. I am sure there will be no paucity of land and, therefore, it will not be difficult to implement the proposals embodied in her amendment. The evacuee land will prove more than sufficient for the objects she has in view. So those persons whose land is acquired for laying streets and bazaars must be given evacuee land in lieu of it. The hon. Minister-in-charge had not made a correct statement about this matter in the meeting of the Select Committee. As regards the principle involved in the utilization of evacuee land for such purposes, it has already been accepted in the case of land owners dislodged from the area over which the new Capital is proposed to be built. So these owners should also be given land for land, if the Government is really anxious to promote their welfare.

Government has accepted the principle of acquiring evacuee property for the public good. It may be argued that acquiring evacuee property for purposes of improving the city of Amritsar is not utilizing

evacuee property for the public good. I do not agree with this argument. When the city is to be improved, parks have to be laid, schools have to be established, roads have to be widened ; all this work is meant for the public good. In these circumstances I think that the hon. Minister concerned should not insist on his own proposal and he should accept the amendment of my hon. Sister Dr. Parkash Kaur.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) Madam, I have no mind to take much time of the House in this connection as there are so many clauses of this Bill wnich have to be discussed. I learnt that 60 per cent of the land which is to be acquired by the Improvement Trust in Katra Jaimal Singh belongs to the local people and 40 per cent to the evacues. I request that the land wanted for parks, widening of streets etc. should be taken from the evacuee property and in case some land is acquired from the local people they should also be compensated from the evacuee lands. I think it is a very useful suggestion and should be adopted. I wholly agree with my hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh in this respect.

Sardar Bachan Singh: (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural). (*Hindi*): Madam, towards the end of clause 3 it is stated that "any scheme already framed or sanctioned in respect of a damaged area under th provisions of that Act shall be deemed to have been framed or sanctioned under this Act." This means that by virtue of this Bill all the schemes which have been so far framed by the Government will be validated and put through. But these schemes may not be finding favour with the public at large. For example, if it is said that the property owners should not be allowed to develop their property and that this work should be done by Government, people will take objection to it as such a scheme is not calculated to bring about the good of the people in general but only of a few officers and contractors. And then there may be schemes which may require alteration if people come forth with some reasonable requests. All reasonable requests of the public should be accommodated and the persons who come to make these requests should not be dubbed rogues. If it is suggested that the Improvement Trust should proceed in such a way that no harm is done to any property owner while improving the city, such a suggestion should be adopted. The aim of the Improvement Trust is to improve the city and if this can be brought about in accordance with the wishes of the Trust without any harm being done in any quarter, such a proposal should be accepted without delav. Every attempt should be made to satisfy the property owners by telling them that they are in a position to develop their property

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

under their own supervision and that no decisions would be taken which might militate against their interests. As a matter of fact the intention of the Government is to develop a certain area and not to take possession of it. In case the desired improvement can be brought about by the people concerned they should be allowed to have their own way. The hon. Minister-in-Charge has himself admitted in so many words that the Government wishes to afford an opportunity to the people to improve their property, if that be so, any such amendment which is calculated to produce such a result should be accepted. It has been observed that whenever a new town-ship is established, the Improvement Trust always gives a plan to the people according to which the buildings are to be constructed. In such circumstances people are asked to set apart some lands for parks, schools, streets and roads etc., and they do that. The people of Amritsar too who have met us in the form of deputations have assured us that they are prepared to set aside lands for public use in accordance with the wishes of the Trust. I think that the Government should agree to this offer. However, if there are people who cannot undertake construction work in accordance with the advice of the Improvement Trust for want of funds, their lands may be acquired by the Government and nobody will object to it.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : On a point of order. Is there no time-limit for speeches ? If no time-limit is fixed, we may not be able to finish the work even by 12 o'clock in the night.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Members should themselves realize that the time of the House is not to be wasted.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am sorry that the hon. Member, though he is an old parliamentarian, has not cared to consult the rules.

Deputy Speaker : No reflection, please.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I was submitting that if the Government provided facilities to the house-owners for repairing their houses, they would be immensely pleased at the prospect of getting rent which they could not get for some years. If, however, the Government acquires such property there is no guarantee that it would be repaired in six months or a year. The owners are anxious to get their properties repaired as early as possible. I shall request the Government to give proof of their goodwill towards the people of Amritsar. If they accept my amendment, they will be providing a great facility

to the people. According to it, if the owner of a property wishes to repair and develop it himself, he can do so. If he does not do so, the Government can acquire that property and develop it.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth: The suggestion which my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has made before the House..............

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member has already spoken on this amendment.

Mehta Ranbir Singh: On a point or order, Madam. Can an hon. Member, who spoke on an earlier amendment be prevented from speaking on a subsequent amendment. I want your ruling.

Deputy Speaker: I have already pointed out that both the amendments are to be discussed together. When Dr. Sant Ram Seth stood up, he could raise any objection that he had. I shall ask the hon. Member not to prolong the discussion unnecessarily.

Sardar Bachan Singh: On a point of order, Madam. If some Member wishes to make a suggestion with regard to another Member's amendment and he is prevented from doing so, is it not open to us to raise a point of order ?

Deputy Speaker: By referring to the same matter again and again, the hon. Member appears to be bent upon prolonging the discussion.

Sardar Bachan Singh: I strongly object to these remarks.

Deputy Speaker: I said that I had already answered Dr. Sant Ram Seth. If the hon.- Member wished to raise a point of order with regard to it, this would only amount to more time being taken up in discussing those things.

Sardar Bachan Singh: As Members of this House, are we not within our right to raise points of order ?

Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member has certainly got that right, but I request the House that if such points of order are raised again and again, it would prolong the proceedings.

Sardar Bachan Singh: On a point of order, Madam. I want to point out that when Dr. Sant Ram Seth spoke, another amendment was under discussion. Is he not entitled to speak on the amendment ow under discussion ?

Dr. Sant Ram Seth: My hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has made a suggestion with regard to the second amendment. As the amendment moved by my hon. Sister Dr. Parkash Kaur has wider scope I wish to ask for leave to withdraw my amendment.

Deputy Speaker: Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw this amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) (*Hindi*) : Deputy Speaker Sahib ………

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The hon. Minister should say Deputy Speaker Sahiba.

Minister for public Works: Sahib includes Sahiba.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: No, it does not include Sahiba.

Minister for Public Works: If 'Sir' includes 'Madam' 'Sahib' includes 'Sahiba'.

I agree with the feelings voiced by those of my hon. Friends who moved amendments or spoke on them. There is no need of referring to that amendment which has been withdrawn, but in lines 3 and 4 of the amendment now under discussion, it is stated that —

> only as much piece of land or property being taken as is compulsorily needed for widening the road, the rest being left with the owners. If the area of the property is less than that required according to the approved plan ……………

In order to achieve this object, it has been provided in a subsequent Clause of the Bill that when the Government prepares a scheme, it will be published for information of all concerned. If somebody has any objection to that scheme, it will be considered before it is sanctioned. If some amendment to the scheme is accepted it would be published again. The Government only wants the power of framing schemes and it would be always prepared to hear the objections of the public. It is a Government of the people and it they would never like to see people suffer.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: The Government itself is a big disease.

Minister for Public Works: It appears disease to the hon. Member because he will never be able to become a Minister.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister will be out of office within two days.

Minister for Public Works : Let the hon. Member please himself with such thoughts. It is a democratic form of Government and whosoever is incharge of it, he has to see that the people are subjected to least inconvenience. I feel that if this amendment is carried, it will not be possible to prepare any scheme. The hands of the Government will become so tight that various kinds of objections would be raised when t acquired any property.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : The hon. Minister should address the Chair.

Minister for Public Works : It is not for the hon. Member to point out these things to me. I am not prepared to receive such suggestions from a boy.

Deputy Speaker : He is not a boy. He is an hon. Member of this House.

Minister for Public Works : If the hon. Member has any reasonable complaint, he should address the Chair. I did not snatch away any thing from the hon. Member by looking towards him. I was submitting, Madam, that I agreed with the purpose of the amendment moved by the hon. Member. I have taken notice of this matter and it will be kept in view while framing schemes for the improvement of damaged areas. There is also a provision in the Bill regarding the notification of a damaged area. Under that provision any area can be excluded from the application of the Improvement Scheme Besides, there will be representatives of the Municipal Committee also on the Improvement Trust. If all the powers had been vested in one person, there could have been some scope for injustice to some people. I admit that I have not examined this area from the point of view of this scheme. But I have been told by my department that there are five to ten undamaged houses in this area. Effort will, however, be made to fit them in the scheme without pulling them down. If anybody can be conveniently given a plot of land in exchange for his plot, he would be accommodated. But if the hands of the Improvement Trust are tied and it is not allowed any free hand, the Scheme cannot be put through. I, therefore, request the hon. Member to withdraw the amendment.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar Sikh Women) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, my amendment has perhaps created some doubt in the mind of the hon. Minister to the effect that its purpose is to create hindrances in the way of the improvement scheme. I assure him that there is no such intention behind this amendment. The affected persons also met the hon. Chief Minister and the officers of the department concerned. They say that if the Government wants to acquire land for widening roads, they are prepared to give it, provided they are given plots in the same area. But I must say, that if anybody wants to rebuild Amritsar on the model of New York, he cannot do so because the persons who have to pay for that are without the requisite money. That is why this amendment has been introduced. I would submit that the Government should introduce as much of this improvement scheme, as would be palatable to the people. If people are prepared to develop the area according to the scheme, they should be allowed to do so. Besides this, they are prepared to give land for widening the roads. It was with this purpose that I introduced this amendment. I hope the hon. Minister would accept it.

Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That the following be added as Proviso to the existing clause :

Provided that the Improvement Trust shall not acquire land as a whole if the owner of the property, agrees to develop the site according to the plan approved by the Trust, only as much piece of land or property being taken as is compulsorily needed for widening the road, the rest being left with the owners. If the area of the property is less than that required according to the approved plan the trust shall provide the additional area from the adjacent land.

Provided also that the set-back may be applied equally on both sides of the road.

The Assembly Divided : Ayes 3, noes 25.

AYES

1. Bachan Singh, Sardar
2. Ranbir Singh, Mehta
3. Sajjan Singh, Sardar

NOES

1. Ajit Singh, Sardar.
2. Badlu Ram, Chaudhri.
3. Behari Lal Chanana, Shri.
4. Bhagat Ram Chodha, Shri.
5. Bhagat Ram Sharma, Pandit.
6. Buja Ram Bhagat, Shri
7. Dalip Singh Kang, Sardar.
8. Gopi Chand Bhargava, The Honourable Dr.
9. Jagdish Chander, Chaudhri.
10. Kabul Singh, Sardar.
11. Kartar Singh, Chaudhri.
12. Kartar Singh, The Honourable Sardar.
13. Krishna Gopal Dutt, Chaudhri.
14. Narinder Singh, Sant.
15. Narotam Singh, The Honourable Sardar.
16. Parkash Kaur, Shrimati Dr.
17. Prabodh Chandra, Shri.
18. Ranjit Singh, The Honourable Captain.
19. Rattan Singh Tabib, Shri.
20. Samar Singh, Chaudhri.
21. Sant Ram Seth, Dr.
22. Sher Singh, Chaudhri.
23. Shiv Saran Singh, Sardar.
24. Swaran Singh, Sardar.
25. Sudarshan, Seth.

Deputy Speaker: Question is:

That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 4.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur General, Rural) (*Hindi*): Madam, I beg to submit that from 8 to 9 p.m. the hon. Members should be given a recess for taking their meals. It is the desire of nearly all the hon. Members. You may ask it from them.

Deputy Speaker: It was decided that the House will sit till all the business on the agenda is disposed of. It is not in my power to change the decision of the House after such a short time.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: Madam, my submission is that while the hon. Ministers have their cars and they can easily go and take their meals, the hon. Members have no cars. So I would request you to very kindly accede to my request for recess as we have no motor cars.

Deputy Speaker : Please don't talk of cars etc., speak only on the clause under discussion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, in this clause it has been provided that "when the scheme has been framed under this Act, the Trust shall publish a notice in the official Gazette and two newspapers" The objection of the people is that the procedure to be followed for publication is not proper. My submission is that the publication should be wide and that it should be done at least through one English, one Hindi, one Gurmukhi and one urdu paper so that all the persons concerned may have an opportunity of reading the notice. If this is done, personally I will have no objection in accepting this clause.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 5.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 6.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, Women) (*Punjabi*) :

Madam I beg to move :

that in sub-clause (2), in the Proviso, line 5, for the words 'two weeks' the words 'two months' be substituted.

Madam, on account of the acute shortage of houses and shops in Amritsar it is necessary that the time limit should be extended from two weeks to two months. Even the district officers cannot make arrangements for accommodation within such a short time. So I hope that, keeping in view the difficulties of the people in the matter of finding accommodation, this amendment will be accepted.

Deputy Speaker : Amendment moved :

That in sub-clause (2) in the Proviso, line 5, for the words 'two weeks' the words 'two months' be substituted.

Sardar Bachan Singh : (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, if you just peruse clause 6 as it stands in the original Bill, you will find that it is laid down there as follows:

> Provided that possession of any building or part of a building shall not be taken unless its occupier has been given at least forty eight hours' notice or such longer notice, as is considered reasonably sufficient to enable him to remove his moveable property from such building without unnecessary inconvenience to himself.

It appears as if the framers of the Bill were very optimistic that no difficulty would be experienced by the persons on whom notices would be served for vacating the building within forty eight hours. They thought that there was no dearth of houses which could be let out to the persons required to vacate their premises in the damaged areas. But when this Bill was referred to the select committee, it was realised by the members that two days' notice was too short a period during which a person could search out a house and shift there along with his movables. So they did well to increase the period from two days to two weeks. The question is whether this period is sufficient for a person to find out a house in the face of the acute scarcity of residential buildings available on rent. Now, Madam, the provisional figures regarding the census of houses in Amritsar, indicate that there are only 41,000 houses in the whole of the city. But according to the census of population we find that the number of the inhabitants of this city is 3,19,000. This means that owing to shortage of houses, the average number of persons living in a house comes to 8, which is undesirable and most unhygienic in view of the fact that it has been accepted by the authorities concerned that ordinarily not more than five persons should occupy a house. But the reason of this extraordinary congestion in the city is that one seventh of the total number of houses were burnt down during the disturbances of 1947. It is obvious that where acute scarcity of houses, presents a formidable problem, Government should, after a careful thought, fix a longer period of notice rather than a shorter one. Then, Madam if you just consider the words, 'or such longer notice', they connote that even the select committee was under the impression that the notice of 15 days' period would not be sufficient for finding out a house. Under the circumstances, it is desirable that the period of notice should be of such longer duration as would enable the occupier or the owner of a house in the damaged areas, to find out another house, and shift there with the minimum possible inconvenience. In this connection I may point out that in various cities of the Punjab, even high officers find it very difficult to get a house on rent and invariably they have to move the District Magistrate to requisition some residential building for them.

Deputy Speaker: But at certain places certain officials possess even two houses, while others cannot get even one.

Sardar Bachan Singh: The number of such black sheep is very small. I am talking of the general position obtaining in the cities regarding dearth of houses. I was submitting that even officers cannot get houses easily, without resorting to the device of requisition. In this connection I am constrained to remark that this bugbear of requisition had a very adverse effect on the construction of new houses. Consequently Government had to make an announcement in the press that the newly built houses would not be requisitioned for ten years. This was by the way but this also indicates that the scarcity of houses exists in the State in the acutest form. I would, therefore, request the Government to increase the period of notice, as the present provision, is not enough to enable the occupier of a building in the damaged area to find out another house and shift there. It is argued that he can apply for the extension of the period of the notice but I may submit that he will have to experience a lot of difficulty in this matter. If the officer concerned happens to be a gentleman, he would grant his application; otherwise he will be forced to grease the palm of the official to get his work done. So if the Government wishes that people should lead an honourable life, then I think it is most desirable that the period of notice should be reasonably extended. I hope the hon. Minister in-charge of the Bill will see his way to accept the amendment now before the House, and will thus secure the goodwill of the people of Amritsar.

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) (*Hindi*): Madam, I may tell the House that it will take about a year to frame the scheme. Then it will be published and objections invited. After considering the objections, the Improvement Trust will approve of it and forward the same to the Government for sanction. After careful consideration the Government will notify it. It is obvious that all these processes will take a considerably long time for completion. It is after the notification of the scheme that the Trust will begin to acquire land in the damaged areas. This means that the occupier or the owner of the house in a particular damaged area, will be knowing it long before the actual possession of the house is taken from him; and by the time the notice will be served on him he will have arranged for an alternative accommodation for himself. So no difficulty will be experienced by him while shifting to the new house and removing his moveables within the period of two weeks prescribed in the notice.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : It is not so easy to find out a house, as the hon. Minister thinks it to be.

Minister for Public Works : Well, Madam, the object of this clause is that the occupier of the house is in possession of the knowledge that a particular house is required to be vacated, and he must arrange for the removal of his moveables etc., from it. In this connection I may point out that when this clause was under consideration in the select committee, the mover of the amendment, who was also a member of this committee, pleaded for the extension of the period of notice from two days to seven days, but the select committee was very considerate and it extended the period to 14 days. Besides this, Madam, if you peruse this clause, you will find that the provision is not inelastic. It is laid down there that if the owner or the occupier of a house wants an extension of the period of notice, the officer concerned can allow him more time on application.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : He will have to undergo a lot of botheration before he will be able to get it.

Minister for Public Works : But if a longer notice is given, the possibility is that the owner of the house might say that he forgot it or ask for a fresh notice under one pretext or the other. So I am of the opinion that the period of notice as suggested in the select committee report, is quite reasonable. It is a pity that if we want to expedite a certain matter, then my hon. Friends want to prolong it. But where Government wants to take some time particularly in the matter of notification of a scheme, and payment of compensation to the owners etc., it is complained that an inordinate delay will be caused in compensating them and that expeditious action should be taken by the Government in the matter. I fail to reconcile the conflicting attitude of my hon. Friends. Under the circumstances, I am unable to accept the amendment.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar Sikh, Women) : Madam, it is really too kind of the hon. Minister for Public Works to provide for 2 weeks' notice for the occupier to remove his movable property. In the meeting of the select committee I had made a suggestion to the hon. Minister that the notice period should at least be two months instead of two weeks as is clear from the clause under consideration of the House, but he did not accept my suggestion. In fact he was adamant that 15 days' notice was sufficient to enable the occupier to remove his movables.

[Sh. Dr. Parkash Kaur]

Madam, since I happen to live in Amritsar, I know the exact position regarding the housing accommodation. I do not think any hon. Member will be of the opinion that a person can succeed in securing housing accommodation within 15 days. I know how difficult it is these days to get any accommodation. In fact it was in view of this difficulty that I had requested the hon. Minister to make provision for two months instead of 2 weeks. Here I again take the opportunity of requesting him to accept my demand with a view to do justice to the people concerned. It is difficult, rather humanly impossible, for them to vacate their premises overnight. It is abundantly clear from the provisions of the Bill that it will take the Government about 7 years to complete the scheme through the Improvement Trust. As a matter of fact we are not certain how much time it will take to complete it. Under the circumstances, I do not find any sense in asking the people to vacate the premises beforehand. Such a step on the part of the Government will, I am afraid, result in depriving these people of their income which they get in the form of rent etc., from their premises in such localities. They will thus be reduced to poverty. Under the circumstances I would request the hon. Minister to accept my amendment.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That in sub-clause (2) in the Proviso, line 5 for the words 'two weeks' the words 'two months' be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth (Amritsar City General, Urban) : I move :

That for the proposed Proviso to sub-clause (2) the following be substituted :

Provided that the possession of any building shall not be taken unless its occupier has been given two month, notice or such longer notice as is considered reasonably sufficient to enable him to remove his moveable property from such building without unnecessary inconvenience.

Provided further that the owners and occupiers of temporary wooden structures will be allowed reasonable opportunity to set back or remove the same.

Madam, I think the hon. Minister should not have any hesitation in accepting the amendment moved by the Lady Member Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur. But it seems that he is not prepared to afford any concession to the people concerned. Madam, I am in a position to say on the basis of my personal experience that it is humanly impossible

for the people concerned to vacate the premises and find some alternative accommodation elsewhere. During 1946-47 when I was myself living in the capacity of a tenant a notice was served upon me by the landlord to vacate the premises in my possession. It took me about 2 years to search a suitable accommodation. As I was direly in need of some accommodation there was no other alternative left with me except to buy a house. I bought a house which was already occupied by 6 tenants. It was with great difficulty that I succeeded in ejecting one of the tenants. This little accommodation was hardly sufficient for keeping my household effects. Madam, you will be surprised to learn that it took me about one and a half years to eject the rest of the tenants What I wish to point out is this, that keeping in view the scarcity of housing accommodation at present prevailing in the city of Amritsar, it would not be fair to ask the people concerned to vacate the premises. It would tantamount to grave injustice to them. In the absence of any alternative accommodation, the people concerned would be at a loss to know what to do and where to go. After all the proposed period of two months is not a very long period. In fact the people concerned are prepared to accept the notice period of two months during which time they may try their best and struggle hard to secure some accommodation.

Deputy Speaker : Amendment moved :

That for the proposed Proviso to sub-clause (2) the following be substituted.

Provided that the possession of any building shall not be taken unless its occupier has been given two months notice or such longer notice as is considered reasonably sufficient to enable him to remove his moveable property from such building without unnecessary inconvenience.

Provided further that the owners and occupiers of temporry wooden structures will be allowed reasonable opportunity to set-back or remove the same

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I do not find any difference between the previous amendment, moved by the Lady Member, and the amendment now before the House, which has been moved by my hon. Friend Dr. Sant Ram Seth. I would like to submit that the remarks which I am going to make in respect of this amendment are also applicable to the previous amendment.

The provision regarding the extension of the notice period already exists in the Bill. If at the time of the execution of the scheme it is

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felt necessary to extend the notice period, then the period of two weeks as provided in the Bill, can be extended so that the people concerned may not be put to any unnecessary inconvenience. There will, there fore, be no difficulty to give this concession, as and when it is felt necessary to do so, after the passage of this Bill into Law. This concession can be given under the executive instructions. Under the ircumstances, I do not find any necessity to provide for any further facilities as adequate provision has already been made with a view to saving the proprietors from any unnecessary hardship.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That for the proposed Proviso to sub-clause (2) the following be substituted :

Provided that the possession of any building shall not be taken unless its occupier has been given two months notice or such longer notice as is considered reasonably sufficient to enable him to remove his moveable property from suc building without unnecessary inconvenience.

Provided further that the owners and occupiers of temporary wooden structures will be allowed reasonable opportunity to set back or remove the same.

The motion was lost.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That clause 6 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 7 to 10

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That clauses 7 to 10 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 11.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, women) (*Punjabi*) : I move :

That at the end of the clause the following Proviso be added :—

Provided that the Collector shall determine the market value of the property from the present rental value on which the House Tax and Property Tax are charged.

Madam, Amritsar is today just on the border. The value of the property in this town has considerably dwindled down. I know that a house which valued at rupees one lakh during the pre-independence days is hardly worth rupees twenty thousand. Previously there was

increased demand for land and the people who were keen to get agricultural land by paying Rs. 1,500/- per bigha are today reluctant to buy that land even at the lowest price. No one is prepared to build any house in this town on account of its close proximity to the Indo-Pakistan border. Although the value of the property is significantly low but still there is no demand on behalf of the public to purchase any property. Moreover, property worth lakhs of rupees was burnt during the disturbances and there is nothing but vacant sites left in Amritsar in some areas. The value of these sites has also gone down considerably. The owners of such land still attach the same swollen value though they realise that no buyer is forthcoming to purchase their land on account of its being situated in the border district. The Municipal Committee is charging house tax and property tax on the basis of the previous market value. The object of my amendment is that the Collector should determine the market value of the property from the present rental value to avoid any injustice being done to them.

Deputy Speaker : Amendment moved :

That at the end of the clause the following Proviso be added :—

provided that the Collector shall determine the market value of the property from the present rental value on which the House Tax and Property Tax are charged.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth (Amritsar City, General, Urban) (*Hindi*) Madam, I have stood up to support the amendment moved by Shrimat Dr. Parkash Kaur. It is quite obvious that the value of land during the pre-partition days was very high. The building material in those days was very cheap but on account of the low purchasing power of the people nobody could afford to purchase it. Today we find that the value of the property has dwindled down and the prices of the building material have gone very high. In view of the tremendous rise in the prices it has become very difficult for the average man to build any house. A house which could be built at Rs. 10,000 before the partition would cost Rs. 30,000 according to the present standard of prices. Under these circumstances I would appeal to the hon. Minister for Public Works to accept quite a reasonable amendment of Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur. The fault does not lie with the persons whose property has been burnt. It was in fact the fault of the Muslim Leaguers or the Congress who approved of the idea of Partition. As a matter of fact it was the duty of the Central Government to construct houses for them but it has failed to render any assistance to these people who have suffered huge loss of property. I would, therefore, suggest that the market value should be determined from the present

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rental value on which the house tax and property tax are charged. The matter should not be left to the discretion of the Controller to assess the rental value but an advisory committee should be set up to assist the controller. With these remarks I will request the Government to accept this harmless amendment and thus extend its sympathy towards these people.

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh (*Hindi*) : Madam, I admit that the principle underlying this amendment would prove helpful in the assessment of the compensation and I think that the Collector will be guided by this principle while making assessment of compensation of the land acquired by the Improvement Trust. But if this is considered, as the sole determining factor then I think it may operate harshly to the interests of many people. It is not correct to say that the award of the Collector will be final but a provision has been made according to which a reference can be made to the Tribunal against the amount awarded as compensation by the Collector. It has been said that the value of the property in Amritsar has cousiderably dwindled down on account of its close proximity to the Indo-Pakistan border. It has also been urged that on account of the tremendous rise in the price of building material it is very expensive to build a house. Though the Act will come into force at once in the local area of Amritsar but it will take suffiicient time to enforce this Act in other areas. It is also just possible that this Act may be repealed by another legislature. But at the same time it is also possible that the legislature may not touch this Act for another .0 or 30 years. I am of the view that the legislative measures should be broad-based to suit all times and all places. I quite agree with my hon. Sister that the idea contained in her amendment should serve as a guiding principle for the Collector to assess the amount of compensation. But I cannot agree to the point raised by the hon. Member that due to inefficiency in the administration the Collector may commit any error which may affect the assessment of the value of the land and thus prove detrimental to the interests of the owners.

Madam, movers of all these amendments were themselves members of the select committee which has approed this Bill. When it was being considered in the meeting of the committee no such amendment was proposed. I know these are the outcome of last-minute thought on the part of the hon. Members. I admit that I had assured them that I would examine amendments even on the floor of the House in case I found them acceptable but I regret that I cannot accept this amendment I would, therefore, request Dr. Parkash Kaur to withraw her amendment.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar Sikh Women) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, the hon. Minister in charge has stated that being members of the select committee we should have proposed amendments when the Bill was under its consideration. But he knows, as well as we do, as to how this Bill was approved by the select committee, how we were pressed for time, how we were getting late for our meals like today and how all of us were anxious to finish its consideration. My signatures are no doubt appended to the report of the select committee but it is our combined responsibility. If the hon. Minister is not prepared to agree I withdraw my amendment.

Deputy Speaker : Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment be withdrawn. ?

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That clause 11 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 12.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central Sikh Rural) (*Hindi*): I move :

That in sub-clause (2), line 3, for the words "three years" the words "one year" be substituted.

Madam, it is laid down in clause 12 that 'the Trust shall, as soon after—but not later than three years from the date of the sanction of the scheme, submit for the scrutiny of the State Government an accurate statement which shall contain the following particulars etc., etc., This means that so long as the statement in question is not ready, a work which is not to take a period longer than three years the question of giving any compensation to the persons concerned will not arise. Now if one year is taken by the Government in sanctioning the scheme submitted by the Improvement Trust and another three years are taken by the Trust in submitting an accurate statement of the actuae cost of the scheme, the income derived from the scheme etc., it is obvious that the people whose houses were burnt down during the riots some four years ago and who have been in great distress all this time with have to wait another five years to get any compensation for their properties. In this way a goodly part of their lives will have been spent in vain hopes. As this matter involves their future, I would submit that the Government should reduce the period in this clause to one year. Already the victims of riots have suffered a lot and it is unfair to keep them waiting for such a long time. The conditions in the State today are not at all abnormal as they were in 1947—48.

Minister for Public Works : Thank you very much for this compliment.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I have never averred that the conditions these days are abnormal. I was saying, Madam, that as it would be cruel to keep the thirsty people without water for 4 days, so it would be to deny these people compensation for 4 years. Keeping their part sufferings in view, they should not be kept in suspense any longer.

I am of the opinion that in case no obstacles are put in the way of the local people and if on the other hand they are given necessary facilities, as promised, the Government will be relieved of a great deal of botheration. In such a circumstance the Government will be able to put through its schemes of awarding compensation to the people concerned in a much shorter time than they at present think will be necessary for this purpose. So I request that the period of three years that is being fixed for these schemes should be reduced to one year. This reduction of time will result in two great advantages. Firstly, the distressed people will be in receipt of the compensation at no distant date and, secondly, the staff of the Improvement Trust will be urged to work with great promptitude. I sometimes hear people say that such and such schemes should be executed on a war footing. But I think that if a scheme deserves being treated on a war footing it is certainly one which relates to the resettling of the distressed people. If this scheme is to be treated on a war footing the Government should require its officers to work with the greatest possible speed. In case they are given more time they will work at leisure. Bnt if they are asked to show the desired results in one year in stead of in three years they will work with all their energy and that will result in a good deal of saving for the Government. And then if the people of Amritsar know that they are going to get compensation in a short time they will soon change the shape of the city and transform the ruins into beautiful buildings. In a few months we will find that there will be no dearth of shops and houses at that place.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : But then how will the officials be fed ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : All the officials are not alike. Some of them are very honest and well meaning persons. Anyhow I wish to suggest that the Government should not have any false notions of prestige. It should rest assured that its prestige will not suffer by making slight alterations in the Bill that it has brought forth. If the period of three years is reduced to one year, I am sure that it will prove of very great advantage to the people as also to the Government. However, if certain cases cannot be decided in a year's time, an amending Bill can be brought and the House will pass that with great easure. I think that 99 per cent of the work can be accomplished in unnecessary time should be spent on it.

Deputy Speaker : Motion moved :

> That in sub-clause (2) line 3, for the words "three years" the words "one year" be substituted.

Deputy Speaker : Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur may also move her amendment so that both the amendments may be considered together.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : (Amritsar, Sikh, women) : I move —

> That in sub-clause (2), line 3, for the word 'years' the word 'months' be substituted.

Madam, I have tabled this amendment for the sole purpose of expediting the work of giving compensation.

Deputy Speaker : Amendment moved :

> That in sub clause (2), line 3, for the word 'years' the word 'months' be substituted.

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) (*Hindi*) : Madam, through you I wish to assure my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh that the Government had absolutely no false notions of prestige. However, I am extremely grateful to him for some very useful suggestions that he has made and I shall do my best to benefit from them. So far as the question of prestige is concerned, I am in a position to say that our prestige, or for that matter the prestige of the Government, is not at all affected by making any alterations in the proposal made by the Government. If some useful alterations are suggested we shall be too glad to accept them as by doing such a thing we raise our prestige in the eyes of the public. I may here say that along with some useful suggestions my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has also placed before the House some impracticable ideas He says that the time for executing the schemes or for payment of compensation for lands and houses should be reduced from three years to one year. As a matter of fact I should not have been surprised if he had suggested a period of one month in place of one year. He should realise as he has, after all, been a Minister though for a day that things are wrought in time and cannot be achieved by a magic wand. We have here to make roads, arrange water supply and do so many things. How can all this be done without taking the necessary time.

Then Madam, this is the democratic age. If somebody's property is acquired, he will approach the Government and it will not be possible to decide the matter quickly. I am sorry to learn that some of my officers did not treat certain persons properly. It is our duty to hear

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the complaints of the people but their disposal surely takes some time. Three years is the maximum period in which the Improvement Trust will have to submit the statement of accounts. It does not mean that it must take three years and not less. They will be required to submit the statement as soon as possible after the scheme has been sanctioned. If my hon. Friends co-operate with the Government, we will execute the schemes as quickly as possible. I shall ask the department, which has to build the roads, to do the work as early as possible. In that case the Improvement Trust will have to submit statements of account at a very early date. If I pay a visit to Amritsar, as some of my hon. Friends desire me to do, it would be said that I did so for getting travelling allowance. Still I would go there when my hon. Friends invite me. In the end, I wish to assure the House again that the Government will try to execute the schemes as early as possible.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central Sikh Rural) (*Hindi*): Madam Deputy Speaker, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for admitting that some of our suggestions were very valuable. I would have felt happier if he had considered the whole matter dispassionately and accepted some of these suggestions. I don't wish to refer to his good luck in being on the Ministerial benches, though he mentioned this subject. On the one hand he agrees to execute these schemes as early as possible, on the other hand he says that this is the democratic age and such things take time. I suggested to the hon. Minister to place this work on war-footing. If he orders his officers to sanction these schemes within a certain period, they will surely do so. The period of one year suggested by me will relate to the period after the sanction of the scheme. The roads to be built in Amritsar are not thousands of miles long.

Minister for Public Works : Will possession be given within one or two months ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : The Government did not accept my suggestion in that connection. They should accept this amendment at least. I am saying these things on behalf of the people of Amritsar, whom this Bill will affect. As we are their representatives, we should act in a manner which is liked by them. The Government says that this Bill is being passed for their benefit. If that is the case, the Government should act according to the wishes of the people in order to make the scheme practicable. If this is the democratic age, as the hon. Minister said, it is all the greater reason that the Government should act as their

real masters desire. The views of those whom we represent cannot be gnored. They are not making any major demands. These are of a minor nature. One of their demands is that the compensation should be paid early. What objection can the Government have to this? If it wants the co-operation of the people, it should not confine itself to agreeing with the principles underlying those demands. These should be actually conceded. In order to prove its regard for the wishes of the people, the Government should accept this amendment.

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) **(*Hindi*)**: If the accounts are not received in time, an amending Bill will have to be brought forward. In that case my hon. Friends will say that we rushed through this measure at a time when the hon. Members were feeling hungry and sleepy. The Government will then be blamed for not having passed a suitable Bill. So far as the principle underlying this amendment is concerned, the Government has no dispute with it. Practical difficulties, however, should not be lost sight of.

Deputy Speaker: Question is:

> That in sub-clause (2), line 3, for the words "three years" the words "one year" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Deputy Speaker: Question is:

> That in sub-clause (2), line 3, for the word "years" the word "months" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar Sikh Women) **(*Punjabi*)**: I move —

> That at the end of sub-clause (2) the following proviso be added:
>
> Provided that any expenses incurred for demolishing and removal of debris under the Punjab Damaged Areas Act, XI of 1947, or the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Ordinance, XVI, of 1950, shall not be included in the actual cost of the scheme.

Madam, those people who suffered during the disturbances were millionaires, but now they have been reduced to nothing. To aggravate their misery, it is now proposed to put the expenditure amounting to Rs. 26 lakhs on those people. I demand that this expenditure should not be incurred by those people. The fact is that whatever loss has been incurred has been incurred on account of the division of the State and that was decided and accepted by the Government. The people

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are not responsible for this loss. I, therefore, submit that this expenditure amounting to Rs. 26 lakhs should be incurred by the Government itself. Noc only that, I want that those people should be given compensation for the debris of their houses. What has actually happened is that the Government not only removed the debris, but has also put the burden of expenditure for the removal of the debris on the owners. In fact, the owners should have been paid the value of the debris and it should have been removed with their concurrence. Actually this has not been done and that is very deplorable. We know that the Municipal Committee has greatly improved the value of some of its property by filling the pits with the debris of the damaged houses. I also know that the trucks which were employed to remove the debris, were actually paid Rs. 12 a day while Rs. 25 were got from the Government. The value of the property for the removal of whose debris Rs. 26 lakh had been spent, can very well be imagined. The owners requested the authorities that the debris such as bricks etc., should not be removed. But nobody paid any heed to their requests. The houses which would not have fallen in hundred years, were pulled down with the help of bulldozers and sixty to seventy labourers at a time. If those houses had not been pulled down, the people would not have been displaced. I am sorry to say that the Municipal Committee paid no heed to the requests of those people. Instead of giving them compensation for the debris such as bricks and girders, they are being asked to pay for the removal of the same. If that material could be used for building other houses, why could it not be used to build houses at the old sites. And then the Municipal Committee used this debris for filling the pits and thus it levelled land worth lakhs of rupees, without paying anything to the owners. Even the earth required for bricks is paid for by the kiln owners. I, therefore, submit that the expenditure for the removal of debris should either be borne by the Government, or by the Municipal Committee which has made property worth lakhs of rupees, and not by the owners of the houses. If they are made to bear this expenditure, it will tantamount to a dacoit asking his victim to carry the booty for him. I, therefore, submit that this expenditure of Rs. 26 lakhs should not be charged from the owners of the damaged houses. I hope the Government will accept this amendment moved by me.

Deputy Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

That at the end of sub-clause (2) the following proviso be added :

Provided that any expenses incurred for demolishing and removal of debris under the Punjab Damaged Areas, Act, XI of 1947, or the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Ordinance, XVI of 1950, shall not be included in the actual cost of the scheme.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth (Amritsar City General Urban) (*Punjabi*) : I have stood up to support the amendment moved by Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur. I do not mind if expenditure for the removal of debris of the houses which will henceforth be demolished, is incurred by the owners. But this expenditure of Rs. 26 lakhs is nothing but a fine on those people for no fault of their own. I know these people owned valuable property in areas such as Katra Jaimal Singh, Katra Sher Singh and Bagh Shardha Nand. But now they have lost these properties. These people got Rs. 500 to 1,000 as monthly rents for their buildings. But now they have become paupers. I, therefore, submit that these expenses for the removal of debris should not be charged from them. No doubt, under compulsion, they would pay it. But then such a course will not behove a Government which is of the people, for the people and by the people. They would pay this expenditure if forced to do so ; but they would abuse the Government in their heart of hearts. In the first place, their houses were burnt and in those were destroyed their valuables, clothes, and even currency notes. Now these people should not be given another blow in the shape of this expenditure for the removal of debris. In 1948-49, those people requested the Municipal Committee to allow them to remove the debris so that they may use it at the time of building new houses. But their request was ignored and the debris was used to level the pits of the land in front of Sharif Pura.

Madam, in my opinion the Municipality can earn thousands of rupees in this way. The debris can be utilized in a useful manner. I think it improper to put the burden of Rs. 26 lakhs on the people. But I know that these suggestions will not be accepted by the Government. I wish that the Government should do things which may be useful to those who have suffered on account of the riots. The manner in which the Government proposes to do things will not rehabilitate such people. It will in fact, put them to more troubles. Still I am hoping against hope that the Government will consider it proper to look to the interests of the poor house owners in such damaged areas.

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh (*Hindi*): Madam, I doubt whether the hon. Members from Amritsar would themselves have accepted this amendment had they been Ministers because it involves a lot of expenditure. The money involved in it can be met either by contributions from the State exchequer, by the central Government, by the Municipal Committee, by the owners of the houses or by the persons who will buy the plots. There is no other way to meet this expenditure. After all some one has to pay the expenditure.

[Minister for Public Works]

It has been alleged that the bricks have been taken away and used. So far as the Public Works Department is concerned I can assure the hon. Members that the bricks made use of by it have been taken on payment only. I am not aware of the facts regarding the Municipal Committee. It has been stated by my hon. Friends Dr. Sant Ram Seth and Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur that the Municipal Committee has made property worth lakhs of rupees out of this. I don't know the facts of the case and so I cannot say whether the Committee made any payments for the bricks or not. But, any how, the cost of demolishing the structures or removing the debris has to be met in one way or the other. We are prepared to approach the Central Government in this matter but they will not accept the argument that the responsibility for this payment lies with the centre because of the partition and its consequences. In my opinion the arguments of communal frenzy, let loose by their decision to partition India and such like reasoning, are not going to be effective. We should approach them in quite another spirit. My hon. Sister Dr. Parkash Kaur has in the amendment refererd to the riots of 1947. In this connection, I hope she will excuse me for saying that Dr. Sant Ram Seth is more experienced and he has supported us in some respects. He belongs to Amritsar city and as such he has also a knowledge of the conditions in that city while Dr. Parkash Kaur has more connection with the rural areas of that district. I am sorry that the amendment moved by the hon. Lady Member is out of order because it has not even been supported fully by some of her supporters themselves. With these words I oppose this amendment. It is not possibe for the Government to spend money out of its already meagre funds. But I assure the hon. Members that the Government will try to do whatever it can to alleviate the sufferings of these people in accordance with the provisions of this Bill.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I wish to place my views before the House and before the Government in a few words. In my opinion, such persons who have suffered during the riots have not been treated by the Government in a sympathetic manner. In fact, their interests have altogether been ignored. In spite of all the speeches delivered today on the floor of this House, I regret to say, that the Government does not appear to change its attitude. It is like throwing water on the sand, without any effect whatsoever. If in spite of the losses suffered by such persons the Government shows its inability to render them any help in this respect

I can only say that such a Government does not deserve to exist even for one day. I would request the hon. Ministers to help such persons whose bricks have been taken away. The Government should try to bring pressure to bear upon the Municipal Committee who has made property worth crores of rupees in this matter. The expenditure required by this Bill should either be borne by the Municipal Committee or the Government itself. It should in no case be made to fall upon those who have already suffered. With these words I resume my seat.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That at the end of sub-clause (2) the following proviso be added :

Provided that any expenses incurred for demolishing and removal of debris under the Punjab Damaged Areas Act, XI of 1947, or the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Ordinance, XVI cf 1950, shall not be included in the actual cost of the scheme.

The motion was lost.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That clause 12 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 13

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepur, General Rural) : I move —

That in explanation to sub clause (3), in lines 6–9, the words "and deduct from such value the cost of demolishing them and removing the material from the sites" be omitted.

Madam, the principle underlying this provision, which the Government has sought to put in this Bill in the form of an explanation, is quite a novel one and I think it has never been accepted anywhere. In such matters the practice is this. Any person whose property, land or building, is acquired by the Government, is paid full compensation by the latter at the market value. It is nowhere to be found, except in this Bill, that in computing the compensation the Government should assess the market value of the property but should deduct from such value the cost of demolishing any structure on that land and removing the material from the site. If the hon. Minister in charge of the Bill can adduce any other legislative measure passed by any other State containing such a provision, I would withdraw my opposition to it. I feel that the very basis on which this provision in the form of an

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explanation has been made, is wrong, as it is intended to burden the owner of the land with unnecessary expenditure, which in fact should have been incurred by the Government itself. I am confident that no such law exists in this country. It is possible that the Government of the West Pakistan might have enacted such laws as go against the law of Jurisprudence, but such a thing is not expected in any civilised country.

Madam, before partition, we used to hear from the Police that this was Punjab and it had ways and practices different from other provinces. But now we find that this Government of ours is vigorously trying to live up to this claim in its own way. It is establishing a principle by which an owner of the house in a damaged area is made responsible to meet the cost of removal of materials from the site and demolishing charges of structures on the land acquired by the Government. May I ask as to what is the fault of those people whose houses were burnt down during the disturbances ? Again, if some structures were left unburnt why should they be made to pay for their demolition and removal of material from the sites ? I am, therefore, strongly of the opinion that the amendment put forward by me is most necessary for safeguarding the interests of the owners of land in the damaged areas. They should not be burdened with the additional expenditure as envisaged in the provision, which I want to be amended. I hope the hon. Minister would see reason and give a proof of the same by accepting this amendment. I would also expect from him that he would carefully go through the provisions of the Bill and consider its implications before bringing it before the House. It is a pity that more often than not the hon. Ministers put the seal of their approval on all the legislative measures framed by the officers. I would again request him to see his way to accept this amendment.

Deputy Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved —

> That in explanation to sub-clause (3), in lines 6-9, the words "and deduct from such value the cost of demolishing them and removing the material from the site" be omitted.

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh): Madam, I have already made the position abundantly clear in regard to this matter and I do not feel called upon to add anything more to what I have already said.

Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That in explanation to sub-clause (3), in lines 6-9, the words " and deduct from such value the cost of demolishing them and removing the material from the site" be omitted.

The motion was lost.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, women): I move—

(i) That in the Proviso at the end of the clause, in lines 6-8, the words 'minus the cost of demolition and removal incurred by the Trust' be omitted.

(ii) That at the end of the clause the following further Proviso be added :—

Provided further that if a person desires land in exchange for land acquired by the Trust the Collector shall assess the value of his interest in terms of land from the scheme lands perferably those in which he had any interest or adjacent to his land keeping in mind the principle that those who desire to be accommodated should not be uprooted.

Madam, it is abundantly clear from the provisions of this Bill that any structures or buildings left in the damaged areas coming under the scheme of the Improvement Trust, will be demolished and it is intended in the proviso to which I have moved this amendment, that the owners of the same will be made responsible for meeting the cost of demolition and removal of material from the sites, as the Trust will deduct such costs from the market value of the land so acquired. I think that this is most unfair on the part of the Government to burden these people with such additional costs, as they already stand ruined on account of their houses having been destroyed by fire during the disturbances. I feel that compensation at market value be paid to them and no costs of any kind, as laid down in the clause should be charged from them.

Besides the demolition of their houses, these people in the affected areas would receive the payments of the compensation minus the cost of demolition and removal incurred by the Improvement Trust. The enforcement of the provision, as it stands in the Bill, now before the House, will result in a great hardship to the people concerned. If my amendments are not accepted I am afraid Government will be doing grave injustice to them. The people of these affected areas should in no case be asked to stand the expenses which may be incurred by the Government in demolishing the houses and also removing the debris.

[Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur]

There is one thing more towards which I would like to draw the attention of the Government in general and the hon. Minister in particular and that is this that the Improvement Trust can come to the rescue of the people in the affected areas by acquiring only as much area of land as is required for widening the streets and leave the rest to be improved upon by the former. In fact the people interested would not be found wanting in improving the rest of the land according to the instructions of the Trust If my suggestion is not accepted, I am afraid these people will also be forced by circumstances to live in camps and hutments, like our displaced brethren from Pakistan, for no fault of theirs. I would, therefore, request the Government to give them land in exchange for their own either in the same locality or somewhere else. But all-out efforts should be made to give them land for land. Government should also give them the compensation for the demolished material so that they may be able to construct their houses. If at all they are to be given the compensation, I do not know how it will be possible for the Government to do so as it is already hard-up for money. In view of this fact I really fail to understand how it is possible for the Government to improve the damaged areas of Amritsar City. I once again request the Government not to charge the cost of the demolition and the removal of the debris from the people of the affected areas. On the other hand it should be ready to advance adequate loans to them for constructing their houses and shops so that they may have something to fall back upon. I hope the hon. Minister will have no hesitation in accepting my amendments which I have moved after careful consideration in the interests of the affected people who have already suffered a lot.

Deputy Speaker: Clause under consideration, amendment moved:

(i) That in the Proviso at the end of the clause, in line 6-8, the words 'minus the cost of demolition and removal incurred by the Trust' be omitted.

(ii) That at the end of the clause the following further Proviso be added :-

Provided further that if a person desires land in exchange for land acquired by the Trust the Collector shall assess the value of his interest in terms of land from the scheme lands preferably those in which he had any interest or adjacent to his land keeping in mind the principle that those who desire to be accommodated should not be uprooted.

The motion was lost.

Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That clause 13 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 14-17.

Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That clauses 14 to 17 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 18.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural): Madam, it is provided in clause 18 that no appeal shall lie in any court against the award of the Tribunal.

It is mentioned in this clause :—

No award under this Act shall be called in question in any court or in any other manner except as provided hereinafter.

It means that if a person feels that the Tribunal has not been fair to him, then according to this provision of the Bill, he is not entitled to challenge its award in any court of law. As a matter of fact it appears that the right to seek justice in the higher courts of law has been denied to the affected persons. It will not be out of place to mention here that according to the provisions of the Constitution any person detained under the order of the Government is within his rights to seek justice in the High Courts and in case he wants to challenge the judgement of the High Court, then he is entitled to approach the Supreme Court. This is not all. If the Government acquires the land of any person, while enforcing the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, then the latter is perfectly within his rights to move higher courts against the action of the former. But so far as the present bill is concerned, it seems as if the Government has come to the rescue of the people living in the affected areas of Amritsar City, who, having suffered heavily during the disturbances, would not be required to appeal against the award of the Tribunal in any court of law even though it may not be fair to them. In view of the provisions of the Constitution to the effect that the executive powers can be challenged in a Court of Law, our Government has failed to make any provision in the Bill to enable these unfortunate people to seek justice in a court of law against the award of the Tribunal. I

[Sardar Bachan Singh]

really fail to understand the reason why the Government is very particular to have these powers. It appears to me that the Government has intentionally avoided to provide for any reference to higher courts lest the award of the Tribunal be questioned.

Minister For Public Works : Does the hon. Member want that the appeals against the award of the Tribunal should be referred to the High Court ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : If the award of the Tribunal is against a person naturally he would not be prepared to appeal to the High Court due to his financial difficulties. What I wish to point out is this that if justice is not done to a person, at least he should not be debarred from seeking justice in any Court of law. As a matter of fact I do not want that everybody should approach the High Court or the Supreme Court. What I personally want is that the award of the Tribunal should be fair and just. In fact I have experienced that if a person instead of receiving Rs. 20/- as his due share receives Rs. 18/- only, he will prefer to lose Rs. 2/- rather than file a suit in a court of law for this petty sum as he knows it full well that the time and labour involved in seeking justice would be incommensurate with the results achieved. I do not say that the award will not be fair but there is every likelihood of its being unfavourable to the interests of these unfortunate people. I want that justice should not be denied to the people who are not satisfied with the award of the Tribunal.

If the Government makes this provision that no award under this Act shall be called in question in any court, the result would be that the Government would entrust unfettered powers to the Collector who would exercise it in the manner he may like. Courts are the guardians of the people's rights and they are established to administer even-handed justice to the people.

It is the duty of the courts to see that the powers are not misused by the officers of the Government. So far as this Bill is concerned, there is no such clause which provides guarantee that the powers will not be misused. Let it be supposed that justice is administered in 99 out of 100 cases but even then we will have to provide adequate safeguards o ensure justice to the one to whom justice has been denied. He must exercise his full rights to go to higher courts in order to protect his rights. The Congress leaders used to make high sounding declarations that every one will have full opportunities to protect his rights. But

may I know what remedy has been provided against any injustice done under this Act ? If it is said provision has been incorporated in the Bill that the Collector will make reference to the Tribunal in such cases, then I will say it is no remedy at all. This is the way how the military courts function which pass an order of court martial in war-time.

Minister for Public Works : Even in normal times the offenders amongst the personnel of Army are court-martialled.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I know that the hon. Minister for Public Works has enough experience of the Army. But he must know that we are here governed by civil law and not by the military law. If he wants to enforce military law he should go to the Army where martial law can be enforced. We have to follow here that law which is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

Chief Minister : There is nothing against the Constitution in this Bill.

Sardar Bachan Singh : When the Government makes any law it says that it is not repugnant to the provisions of the Constitution but the decisions of the High Court have been against the Government. Madam, you will remember that the arrest of Master Tara Singh was declared by the High Court as against the provisions of the Constitution although the Government had made out a strong case against him. Similarly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh the decisions of the Government have been held null and void by the High Courts or the Supreme Court. Merely making a tall claim does not mean anything unless it is accepted by the law courts. If the Government exercises its powers and they operate against the interest of any person he should have full right to seek remedy in the law courts. In case the judgment of the court is against him he should have a right of appeal in the higher court. If no compensation is paid to the persons even then the Government may justify its course and say that its act is not against the provisions of the Constitution.

Chief Minister : The hon. Member has nothing to say against this clause in terms of the Constitution.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I think it should be left to the High Court or the Supreme Court to decide the question of compensation payable for any land acquired under this Act. If the Collector arbitrarily gives an award for the payment of Rs. 10/- or Rs. 20/- as

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compensation instead of Rs. 2,000/- then the aggrieved person must have a right to go to the courts to seek redress. It is clearly provided in the Constitution that no property movable or immovable shall be taken possession of or acquired unless reasonable compensation is paid for the property taken. The matter of determining the compensation should not be left with the Government but such decisions should be taken by the courts. In case this Bill is passed as it is then it will give rise to manifold difficulties. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest to the Government that it should consult my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh who fully understands the intricacies of law and will be able to guide the Government in this matter. If the Government does not pay heed to my suggestion and allows this clause to remain as it is then I think that this Act when passed will die an inglorious death and be considered as inconsistent with the provisions of the Indian Constitution. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should consult some legal adviser and get his opinion in view of the fundamental rights enumerated in the Constitution so that the efforts of the Government in passing this Bill may not eventually go waste. If the Government remains impervious to my suggestion and does not amend this clause then I am sure the people will knock at the doors of the courts and no one will be able to prevent them from doing so.

Minister for Public Works (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) (*Hindi*): Madam, I appreciate the fact that my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh has put in considerable time and labour to examine the various clauses of this Bill and has made good suggestions with regard to some of them. He has just now stressed that provision should have been made for filing an appeal in a Civil Court against the decision of the Tribunal to be constituted under this Bill. In this connection, my submission is that there is no scope left for miscarriage of justice since provision has been made for appealing to the Tribunal against the decision of the Collector. Now in revenue cases appeals against the decision of the District Collectors can be made to the Commissioner and then to the Financial Commissioner. Since no appeal lies in such cases in the Civil Courts, my hon. Friend cannot say that the ends of justice are not being met. Same is the case with disputes arising out of elections, in which final appellate authority is the Elections Petitions Tribunal. So I think we should not so lightly doubt the competency and ability of the proposed Tribunal to do justice in cases which will come to it for review. After settling a few cases, the members of the Tribunal will acquire

such a high proficiency as cannot be expected of a Court which may be called upon to decide one or two stray cases. Moreover, the Tribunal will specialize in this work and will, therefore, administer better justice. If the hon. Member had been so keen on getting this amendment made in the Bill, he would have asked somebody to press for it in the meeting of the Select Committee. Notwithstanding the fact that he has become such a good speaker as to be able to speak on any subject off-hand, I would request him not to continue to oppose this clause.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, Women.) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I feel that the proposal embodied in clause 18 will result in a great hardship for the persons concerned. It is this that makes the owners of properties in the damaged areas doubt the *bonafides* of the Government. It is this that gives them a feeling that they are going to be forcibly deprived of their ownership. It is not for the first time that provision for a scheme for the development of damaged areas is being made. Improvement Trusts for this purpose have been created from time to time in the past also but never before have they been entrusted with such wide and extensive powers. Already the market value of properties in Amritsar has gone down considerably. Then it is proposed to deduct from it the expenses incurred in connection with the demolition work and the removal of debris. I doubt if any of the riot-sufferers will be left with enough money to purchase the houses that will be built under the new scheme and sold by auction. They do not see a single ray of hope so far as the solution of their accommodation problem through this measure is concerned. Their financial postion is already on the verge of insolvency. It appears to them that no profit will accrue from the scheme provided for in this Bill and so they will not receive any compensation for their land which will be acquired by the Trust.

As if to add insult to injury, through this clause 18 it is proposed to debar them even from the right of appealing against the award of the Tribunal to any court This is really an innovation. In no other similar scheme the right of appeal to a law court was banned. This clause will entail a great hardship on them. They will not be able to get justice from the Tribunal which is to be constituted under the Punjab Towns Improvement Act, 1922. According to its definition given in the said Act, it is to consist of a chairman nominated by the Government and two assessors, one to be elected by the Municipal Committee and the other to be appointed by the State Government. As regards the powers of the chairman, I may quote from this Act itself:

[Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur]

Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing clause, the decision on all questions of law and title and procedure shall rest solely with the President of the Tribunal and such questions may be tried and decided by the President in the absence of assessors unless the President considers their presence necessary.

Madam, it is, therefore, clear that the President or the Chairman of the Tribunal enjoys absolute powers and it is left to his discretion to consult the assessors or not.

Is it not possible that being a human being the chairman might commit an error of judgement or unwittingly give a wrong award resulting in hardship for the innocent people who have already suffered unspeakable miseries for no fault of theirs ? And when in murder and other cases of serious crimes a Division Bench consisting of three judges sits in judgement why should these people not be allowed the ordinary right of appeal to a Court of law ? Why should a single person be given the powers to decide the fate of so many distressed people ? With these words I request the hon. Minister-in-charge to agree to the deletion of this clause.

Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That clause 18 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clauses 19 to 34

Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That clauses 19 to 34 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Clause 1

Sub-clause (1)

Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That sub-clause (1) of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Title.

Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister for Public Works: (The hon. Captain Ranjit Singh) :— I move —

That the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill be passed.

Deputy Speaker: Motion moved —

That the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill be passed.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, this Bill which is in its third stage is being passed to meet an emergency and, therefore, its passage places a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of the Government. The Government should see that the enforcement of this Act does not result in hampering the natural growth of the town. What I mean to suggest is this that its enforcement should not check the growth of the population of the town. Fortunately or unfortunately, I have some personal experience of the working of the Improvement Trusts and I am in a position to say that instead of bringing about any improvement they put numerous obstacles in the way of the people. I, therefore, suggest that the Act should be enforced in such a way that the improvement of the town is effected with the least possible trouble to the people concerned. In this connection, I would like to bring two things to the notice of the Government. The first thing is this that while making the various schemes and plans, the practical point of view should not be lost sight of and the construction of buildings on the western style should not be insisted upon as these things are not suited to our conditions of life. The schemes should be prepared in such a way that they cause the least possible trouble to the owners of the property.

The second important thing is this that the mere passing of this Bill does not provide for a compensation to the people concerned. The question of fixing compensation calls for two important considerations. Firstly, the compensation that is to be fixed should be fair. The Collectors should be told through executive instructions that at the time of assessments they are to fix such compensation which is regarded as suitable and fair by the people. Unfortunately, it is found that the officers of the Government while making assessments, instead of erring on the side of the people err on the side of Government as according to their notions they serve the Government by doing so. Such an act on their part gives rise to numerous complaints inside as well as outside this House. Therefore, they should be definitely told that at the time of assessment they should try to favour the people and not the Municipal Committee or the Trust. After

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this comes the question of paying the compensation. Arrangements should be made to pay the compensation without unnecessary delay. I have to place two or three things before the Government in this connection. It will be recalled that some aerodromes were built by the Government some nine or ten years ago but no compensation has so far been paid to the people concerned. In addition to the building of the aerodromes, the Army has acquired a number of places for constructing temporary buildings and depots and no compensation has been paid to the zamindars for their lands and their crops. So far as the question of our new townships is concerned land has been acquired and buildings have been constructed on them but the compensation has not been paid. I think this non-payment of compensation is a slur on this Government. The money after all has to be paid and if it is paid at the proper time it gives a good impression to the public. But at present people think that this Government is a very bad pay-master. If it acquires houses, no rents are paid and when lands are acquired people are not given any compensation. So in these circumstances I would request the hon. Minister concerned that he should issue instructions to the officers for arranging the payment of compensation at once.

The third point on which I wish to speak is the Tribunal which has to fix the compensation and which is to be constituted by the Government. The Government should include such persons in this Tribunal who are actually capable of inspiring confidence in the public mind. I mean to say that this Act in place of the ordinary law courts provides for an alternative forum which has to perform the important work of assessment and that the Judges on this Tribunal should be persons of acknowledged integrity so that nobody can have the courage to question their findings. With these words I support the motion which is before this House.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, while this Bill was being discussed clause by clause some of my hon. Friends who represent Amritsar, particularly attempted to place four or five points before the House. I feel that they have done so as the people of the affected area must have apprised them of their grievances. It is a matter of some satisfaction to me that in deference to our united requests the hon. Minister-in-charge has been good enough to hold out a promise that the provisions of this Bill will not be observed with any undesirable strictness. I think that this promise should go some way to satisfy the public. But

still one thing is there. This Assembly has the power to pass this Bill and it is about to pass it. The enforcement of the Act rests with the officers. I submit that after the Bill is passed into an Act the Government should be vigilant enough to see that the officers enforce this measure in the way in which it is desired to be enforced.

In this connection, if the Government decides to examine in detail the suggestions made by those who moved or supported the amendments and acts on the principles underlying those suggestions, I feel that apprehensions and doubts of the people of Amritsar will be removed to a large extent. In practice, as Sheikh Saadi said, if the ruler takes one egg by force, his subordinates roast all the available hens, and if he plucks one apple, they plunder all the orchards. It has always been seen that the subordinates act as their officers do. One thing that I was pleased to note today was the attitude of the hon. Minister-in-charge. He gave reply to the criticism in a polite manner becoming of a Minister of a democratic country. He has, however, not accepted any of the suggestions made by us. If he had done so, it would have given me still greater pleasure. A time will come when he will realise the necessity of accepting such helpful suggestions. He accepted the principle underlying these but did not incorporate them in the Bill. He said that he was thankful for some of the suggestions made by us. I feel that he would have earned the gratitude of the people of Amritsar if he had attempted to remove their doubts. After this Bill has been passed, the hon. Minister will have to take personal interest to see that its provisions are not used to the detriment of the people of Amritsar. As my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh pointed out, the mentality of some Government officers has no doubt changed, but in the case of a majority of them it is quite unchanged. It is perhaps due to the effect of the conditions under which they had to serve for a long time. In order to avoid giving any cause of complaint to the people, the Government will have to be more alert and vigilant. The Minister-in-charge admitted that some of his officers did not behave properly towards those persons who approached them for explaining their difficulties. Instead of simply expressing his regret about it, he should have taken the officers concerned to task. Unless the conditions are changed, the difficulties of the people cannot be removed. In that case the Bill as it stands will add to the difficulties of the people of Amritsar instead of removing these. If the Government can give an assurance about three things, it will give satisfaction to the people. In the first place those who wish to develop the damaged areas

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themselves should be given maximum facilities. Secondly, a sufficiently long notice should be given before a property is acquired. Thirdly, a very liberal policy should be adopted at the time of determining the amount of compensation. As my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh also pointed out, there are instances where the property was acquired long ago but compensation has not been paid so far. If the same attitude is adopted in the case of this Bill, instead of effecting development it will have the reverse effect. The Government should not make this question affecting the ruined people of Amritsar one of their prestige. As the hon. Minister accepted the spirit of our suggestions, though he did not choose to adopt them in the Bill, I hope that the Government will pay due attention to the things pointed out by me and thereby help the development of Amritsar.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : Madam Deputy Speaker, ordinarily the Town Improvement Trusts do the work connected with the development and improvement of towns, but it became essential to bring forward this Bill for certain reasons. In order to meet the situation created by a large number of houses being damaged during the riots, at first the Damaged Areas Act 1949 was passed. Under that Act, the Municipal Committees had to pay the cost of demolishing the damaged buildings and removal of debris. Domolition of some houses was necessary because these were in such a condition that it was feared that when debris was removed, these would fall down and the neighbouring houses would be damaged. It was, therefore, decided to demolish such houses with the help of machinery and to remove the debris. According to the rules, this work was done by the Public Works Department of the Punjab Government. When the Municipal Committees were asked to pay the expenses, they expressed their inability to do so. Then the question arose as to who would pay these expenses. This burden had to be borne by the owners of houses which had to be demolished and whose debris had to be removed.

This matter remained under Government's consideration for several months. We also approached the Government of India to shoulder this expenditure because these houses were damaged during the disturbances. The Secretary of the Local Self-Government Department carried on some correspondence with the Government of India but we could not succeed in persuading the Government of

India to bear this expenditure. There is another difficulty in this matter. The map of Amritsar city was destroyed in fire when the office of the Municipal Committee was gutted during the martial law days. Now it is very difficult to ascertain as to whose house was where. A number of houses among those houses were evacuee property. Under these circumstances, the Improvement Trust could not issue notice to the owners for the payment of the expenses incurred on the removal of debris. This expenditure in the case of individual owners could not be assessed for want of records. The Improvement Trust wanted special powers to develop those areas. That is why a new Bill has been considered necessary. It has been said that the owners of the damaged houses should be allowed to build houses according to the scheme of the Improvement Trust. When any scheme is framed, people are free to build houses outside the area which is to be improved under the scheme. I myself want that maximum number of houses should be built at Amritsar. The Government has declared in a press Communique that under an executive order Deputy Commissioners have been asked not to requisition newly-built houses for some time and also not to apply Rent Restriction Act to them. As regards the question of compensation we want to pay that as soon as possible because then we will also be able to realise our charges from the Custodian. Since the houses have been destroyed, the Custodian will pay the expenses of the Government to it after disposing of the land. Similarly, we want to give compensation to the local owners of the damaged houses as soon as possible. At the same time, we want that while giving the compensation no excess should be committed against anybody. Whenever any land is acquired, the Government pays compensatian for it. This compensation is paid out of the income derived from that land. I admit that some delay has been caused in the giving of compensation. In the matter of requisitioning of property, rent is paid to the owner, but in the case of acquisition of a property, no rent is paid. Instead of that, compensation for the property is paid after assessment of the value of that property. Some delay is no doubt caused in the fixation of compensation. I admit that delay has been caused sometimes even after the compensation has been fixed. In this connection, we have written to the Deputy Commissioners to send us reports about the land acquired in each district by them and whether they had got the money from the Government or not and whether the compensation had been paid or not. We shall try to expedite the giving of compensations still more. If the owners are given the compensation soon, they will be able to build houses in other areas and thus be able to help solve the

[Chief Minister]

housing problem. It is not correct that we have brought this Bill to harass people. This is not the purpose of this Bill. Due to certain complications, this special Bill has been considered necessary.

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Development of Damaged Areas Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

EAST PUNJAB UTILIZATION OF LANDS (AMENDMENT) BILL

Minister For Development (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) : I introduce the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill.

Minister : I move :

That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Deputy Speaker : Motion moved :

That the East Punjab Utillization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration ot once.

Sardar Bachan Singh : (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, this East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill is the result of a mistake of the Government. So far as our Government is concerned, it brings Bills without giving any thought to them. And then, it wants to rush them through. The result is that when they are put into force, there appear defects in them and hence the amending Bills. The amending Bills brought by the Government after 1947 are in themselves a record.

Sardar Swaran Singh : It means the legislature is progressive.

Sardar Bachan Singh : You may call it progress. But I must say that our Government is successful not in writing new things on the slate but in wiping off what is already written on it. Our Government has tried to give some land on lease for two years. Where a barren land, having weeds growing on it in abundance, is offered for a lease of two years even a man having very little of wisdom in him can see that nobody will be willing to take it for such a short term. Had the Government taken the advice of the Director of Agriculture or the hon. Members. ...

Sardar Ajit Singh : I think they should have taken the hon. Member's advice in this matter.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Had the Government taken my advice it would not have felt sorry for all that has happened. For a period of two years no agriculturist or farmer is prepared to take any lease of such waste land, because by the time it will give them any crops its period of

lease will expire and it will go out of their possession. No farmer will put any manure in a land unless he knows that it will remain with him to yield crops for his benefit. I am glad that the Government appears to be in a mood to realize its mistake in this matter and is going to rectify it. At this time in our State there are some lands which are lying uncultivated for some time in the past. The area of such lands which are lying uncultivated for some years is more than twenty five lakh acres. One way of bringing it under cultivation was suggested by the Director of Agriculture in his report some time back. In his opinion if the Central Government could afford to provide land for the purpose, the State Government could bring five lakhs of acres under cultivation in a period of five years. This would bring income to the Government. Another way is that the farmers themselves may be encouraged to increase the area of cultivated lands with their own efforts. This Bill is not a good one and in fact a better Bill could be brought forward. Now-a-days the moneyed people are not prepared to sink their capital in agriculture and farming. Most of them invest their capital in wine shops, manufacture ornaments and in other industries of the like nature but they don't like to invest it in farming and operations pertaining to agriculture. Yet another method of bringing such lands under cultivation is by providing facilities to the small farmers and encouraging them to do so by resorting to co-operative farming. Had the Government drafted this Bill in such a manner as to give preference to Co-operative Societies in it, the problem would have been solved to a large extent. A reply to an Assembly question has shown that in many districts of the State notices of ejectment have been issued to the tenants. My submission is that it would have been better if twenty five lakh acres of lands—Nazool land—had been given to such people on co-operative basis. A Bill should have been brought with this object in view. It would have solved this problem. Loans should have been given in order to help such persons in bringing this land under cultivation. As a result of this, the shortage of food-grains which we have in our country would have been relieved to a large extent. But I am sorry to note that our Government has failed to tackle this problem in a satisfactory manner. The experiment of two years is another failure. If the Government is really sincere in its efforts to bring this land under cultivation it should immediately declare that any person who does not do so will be deprived of his land. If a person does not cultivate his land the Government should give notice to him to do so and if he does not cultivate it for one year he should be asked to leave possession of it. Moreover it is the duty of the Government also to provide all possible facilities to the cultivators. There are persons who are unable to afford spending on tube wells, tractors and such other implements which are necessary for cultivation on

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a large scale. The Government should enable such persons to buy these. I have studied figures regarding agriculture in our State and I have noticed that in the districts of Hissar, Gurgaon, Ferozepore or, as a matter of fact, in the belt extending from Gurgaon to Fazilka there is a scarcity of water and arrangements should be made to overcome it. Without water such lands cannot be brought under cultivation. In this Bill at least eight years have been mentioned but the maximum limit has not been placed.

Sardar Ajit Singh : For that there is a notice of an amendment.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Madam, I was submitting that Government should first use its influence and bring pressure to bear upon those persons who have not brought their lands under cultivation and are keeping them fallow. Secondly, it should lay down a condition that if the landholders failed to put their lands under the plough within a certain period, which should be prescribed to the minimum, it will take over the possession of the same and lease out to those zamindars who are ready to till these for purposes of producing food-grains etc. Then, there is another thing which I want to bring to the notice of the Government. The period of lease as provided in the Bill is not enough. The lease period should be sufficiently long.

Sardar Swaran Singh : This will be from seven to twenty years according to an amendment intended to be moved by the Government.

Chief Minister : The hon. Member opposite has not himself made any suggestion regarding the length of lease period.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I have not specified any period because my apprehension is that any wholesome or useful suggestion put forward by me will not be acceptable to the Government. So I have merely alluded that the period of lease should be sufficiently longer than what has already been provided under the Bill. Then, Madam, it goes without saying that we need every inch of land, that is available, so that displaced tenants may be rehabilitated. I may point out that according to the statistics made available by the Government, the number of such tenants is no less than 41,000 at present. Even those tenants who had been provided with land, are being ejected, thus swelling the ranks of the unemployed. Last year the Government assured us that it had sufficient lands to offer to the displaced tenants, but now we are surprised to find that a very large number of them are without land. I am of the opinion that if

those zamindars who had been allotted lands but had not taken possession of the same last year simply because it was a temporary allotment, had taken over these lands, the result would have been a still greater increase in the number of tenants having no land. But how long this matter can be put off ? Now that quasi-permanent allotment has been accomplished, these zamindars would naturally take possession of the lands and a lot of poor tenants would be rendered workless, as their ejectment is sure. They will then be at a loss to know what to do. It, therefore, becomes incumbent upon the Government to see that at the time of leasing out lands, it should give preference to those persons over the others, who are displaced tenants at the first instance and that their only profession or the means of livelihood is agriculture. But I have serious apprehensions that these lands would be made over to those people who are connected with some Minister or some high officer of the State. I, therefore, suggest that Government should frame rules under this Bill and as I have already stated, should provide for the allotment or leasing out of lands preferably first to the displaced tenants and then to those who entirely depend upon agriculture, particulary those tenants of this side, who are being ejected from lands, by the new allottees. Third preference should go to those people who want to till the land with their own hands. The rules should also contain a provision and a specific provision that any landholder possessing an economic holding comprising 12 acres of land, will not be eligible for the lands to be acquired by the Government under this Bill. There is a cogent argument for debarring them from getting more lands, and it is this. If these zamindars, who possess economic holdings, get more lands on lease from the Government at some other places, they will not be able to devote their undivided attention to the tilling of lands at either place. If they succeed in having good crops at one place, they are bound to lose in produce at the other place owing to the fact that one man can attend to one job at the same time and place. If the Government is in right earnest to call another session of the Assembly in the month of June ....

Sardar Swaran Singh : If the hon. Member speaks less, a session will certainly be held.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am prepared to curtail my speech, provided a categorical assurance is held out by the Government that a session will be called in the month of June.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, Madam. The hon. Member is not relevant to the motion. When the motion is for the consideration of the Bill, then the discussion should be confined to the broader

[S. Shiv Saran Singh]

principles underlying it. The hon. Member is going into the details which cannot be discussed at this stage.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I seek the protection of the Chair and also want its ruling whether any hon. Member has a right to force me to restrict my speech or make it in a certain manner ?

Deputy Speaker : As a matter of fact I wanted to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that he was somewhat going wide of the mark in discussing the Bill. But I, however, allowed him to have his say. Now I would ask him to wind up his speech.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I bow to your ruling and would finish my speech by making one or two observations. I would request the Government to base the Bill on two principles. It should see that the land acquired under this Bill is definitely brought under cultivation so that we may be able to make up the deficit in food-grains prevailing in India. Secondly the lands should be allotted or leased out to those displaced tenants or tillers of land, who have so far not got any land. I feel that the general principles underlying this Bill are such as command the praise of one and all. (*Hear, hear*). Since the scarcity of foodgrains is a national problem, I think it is the imperative duty of everybody to put in every endeavour not only to make India self-sufficient but also to convert it into a surplus country in food-grains. (*Applause*). So far as utilisation of land is concerned, I am strongly of the opinion that not an inch of land should remain fallow in this State. If it is the intention of the Government to bring all the available land under fodder and foodgrain crops in order to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of food, then it should lose no time to provide land to all those persons whose main profession is agriculture. What I wish is that the passage of the proposed Bill into law should result in doing maximum good to the poor people rather than the rich. It will not be out of place to mention here that the rich and the influential persons who have taken large tracts of land on lease have already earned a lot. If the proposed Bill is passed into law then the rich lessees would be greatly benefited particularly due to the extension of the lease period. If it is the intention of the Government to help the rich people only then I have no hesitation in saying that this policy will have very bad repercussions on the poor masses. If it is the intention of the Government to bring all the available land under foodgrains cultivation, then it will have to look to the interests of those people who have not been provided with any land and whose

profession is agriculture. On the one hand, our Government wants to afford all possible facilities to those rich people who have been given large tracts of land on lease with a view to bringing all the available land under cultivation and on the other it is making matters more complicated by ignoring the poor people whose main source of livelihood is agriculture. I would like to submit that the Government should make it a point to remove the defects in the Bill, now before the House. It should make all-out efforts to improve this Bill in such a way so as to satisfy those whose main source of livelihood is agriculture. If this is done, I am sure this will go a long way in easing the present acute food situation in our country in general and our State in particular.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Deputy Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2.

Deputy Speaker : Question is ;

That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 3.

Parliamentary Secretary (Sardar Ajit Singh) : I move :

That for the existing clause the following be substituted :—

3. In sub-clause (1) of Section 3 of the said Act for the words "two or more harvests by serving on the owner a notice to the effect that he has decided to take possession of such land in pursuance of this Section" there shall be substituted the words "six or more harvests after serving on the owner a notice that, if he does not cultivate the land within such reasonable period as may be specified in the notice the Collector may take possession of such land for the purposes of this Act.

The motion was carried.

Sardar Bachan Singh [Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural] (*Hindi*) : I move :

That in line 2, for the quotations and word "six" the quotations and word "four" be substituted.

[S. Bachan Singh]

Madam, I wish to submit that the Government by making provision for two or more harvests in the original Act has failed to compel the lessees to conform to their conditions of producing two or more crops. Now it is the intention of the Government to provide for six or more harvests with a view to bringing all the available land under foodgrain cultivation. It is also clear from the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh that if the lessee does not cultivate the land within such reasonable time as may be specified in the notice, then the Collector 'may' take possession of such land for the purposes of this Act. It seems that it is the intention of the Government to give ample powers to the Collectors to take possession of any land they like. Now the question is that if we want that land should not remain uncultivated or fallow, then why should we leave it to the Collectors to take possession of this fallow land according to their sweet will. However, I have no doubt that a lessee who does not cultivate the land within a reasonable time should be dispossessed of it. But I do not find any reason why a lessee who has been cultivating fallow land for the last two years should be dispossessed of it by the Collector without any rhyme or reason. I know the Government has brought forward this Bill with a view to benefit the rich and the influential persons.

Minister for Public Works : I think the hon, Member is not sure of what he is saying.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am quite sure about it. I have experienced it in the district of Hissar. I have practical experience of the fact how big landlords after ejecting their tenants have continued keeping their land uncultivated. I have also experienced it that some big landlords who did not bring their land under cultivation succeeded in getting it in writing from the Patwaries that the crops had failed. It is abundantly clear from the amendment moved by my hon, Friend Sardar Ajit Singh on behalf of my hon. Friend Chaudhri Sher Singh that it is the intention of the Government to benefit a chosen few. It will not be out of place to mention here that there are certain loop-holes in the provisions of this Bill.

Madam, it would, therefore, appear that an effort has been made to create a loop-hole in the provisions of the Bill to enable the Government to do what it likes. Similarly when the Consolidation of Land Holdings Bill was introduced in the House the Minister-in-charge, who is very shrewd also tried to incorporate such a provision in that Bill according to which the Government could exempt any person from the payment of

the expenses incurred in connection with the consolidation of land holdings. But we should never allow such loopholes to remain in any of the provisions of the Bill. Even then the Assembly did not agree to the retention of such a clause in the Bill and the desired amendment, that every one should bear the necessary expenses incurred in connection with the consolidation of his land, was carried.

Sardar Swaran Singh : It is just to set a thief to catch a thief.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I think there should be absolutely no scope in the Bill to enable the Government to misuse its powers. The Collector should not be invested with such powers that he may or may not acquir any land. I do not approve of fixing six harvests and would suggest that the word 'four' be substituted for the word 'six'. It is with a view to avoiding undue hardship to the cultivators who may not be able to sow their crops for want of rains.

Deputy Speaker : I would ask the hon. Member to cut short his speech.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am trying my best not to take much time of the House and am not making any repetition. I may submit that there is no time-limit on the discussion made on the Bills. However, I will try to finish my speech without taking much time of the House. I think that the amendment moved by Sardar Ajit Singh on behalf of Chaudhri Sher Singh is defective. It says that—

> In sub section (1) of Section 3 of the said Act for the words "two or more harvests by serving on the owner a notice to the effect that he has decided to take possession of such land in pursuance of this Section" there shall be substituted the words "six or more harvest after serving on the owner a notice that, if he does not cultivate the land within such reasonable period as may be specified in the notice the Collector may take possession of such land for the purposes of this Act."

I have therefore, suggested in my amendment that for the word 'six' the word 'four' be substituted. If the Government is serious in the effective enforcement of the Act then it should accept my amendment so that the cultivator may not keep his land uncultivated for a long time.

Deputy Speaker : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

> That in line 2, for the quotations and word "six" the quotations and word "four" be substituted.

Minister For Development: (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, my hon. Friend has raised two points. Firstly, that for the word 'six' the word 'four' be substituted and secondly that the word

[Minister for Development]

'may' should not have been used. For substituting the word 'four' he advanced the argument that it would avoid undue hardship to the cultivators who may not be able to cultivate their land for want of rains. Some time-limit should be given to them for this purpose. I quite agree with my hon. Friend and we would like to give time of six harvest so that they may not have any cause for complaint. We have afforded more time so that the present Act may not operate harshly to their interests. The second objection raised by my hon. Friend is on the use of word may'. As the Government has to give adequate compensation for taking possession of land by it, the word may has to be retained. If the word 'shall' is substituted for the word 'may' then the Collector shall take possession of all such lands and this will give rise to difficulty of giving compensation for such land. I may assure the House that all available land in the State will be brought under cultivation in order to attain self sufficiency in the matter of food.

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That in line 2, for the quotations and word "six" the quotations and word "four" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That clause 3, as amended, be passed.

The motion was carried.

Clause 4.

Sardar Bachan Singh [Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural] : Madam, I see no reason why the Government should not make a positive provision in this Bill that whenever it will acquire land on the ground that it is not being properly utilized it will assess the compensation to be paid to the owner in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 as amended in its application to the State and the rules, made there-under. My objection is to the use of the modifying phrase 'as far as practicable' used in Clause 4 of this Bill. I see no justification whatever for by passing, the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 in any case what-so-ever. This modifying phrase has dangerous implications as it may lead to action being taken in an arbitrary manner in the matter of fixation of compensation. Moreover, under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, every owner whose land

is acquired by the Government has the right to institute proceedings against the decision of the Collector in a Civil Court. As a final resort, he can file an appeal in the High Court if he thinks he has not been able to get justice from the lower court. This modifying phrase 'as far as practicable' appears to me intriguing. I want that in the name of justice and fairness no loop-hole should be left in the proposed measure for departure from the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act which already exists on the Statute Book to govern the assessment of compensation for land acquired by the Government. This modifying phrase will defeat the object of the Land Acquisition Act and give a free hand to the collector to grant whatever compensation he likes, leaving no room for the aggrieved owner to take the case to a Civil Court. So I would urge that while implementing the provisions of this Bill the factors which are to be taken into account under the land Acquisition Act and the rules made thereunder in connection with the determination of compensation must in no case be ignored. For this purpore it is necessary that the words 'as far as practicable' be omitted so that no scope be left for departure from the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act.

To take a hypothetical case, the collector might in a certain case fix the price of land at a very low price which is not at all acceptable to the owners and also direct that the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act will not apply in this case. What remedy will then be available to the aggrieved owners to compel the Government to give them a fair deal ? But I am afraid if this Bill is passed as it is, its validity will be challenged in the High Court or the Supreme Court and there can be no doubt that it will be declared null and void. I have convinced Sardar Swaran Singh that the Tribunal appointed under the Punjab Towns Improvement Act, 1922, has the status of a court and so appeals can be made to higher Courts against its decisions. So the Government should not think that I am saying it without full information that the validity of this measure, if it is passed as it is, will surely be called in question. The Govenment would be bringing a hornets' nest about its head by passing this Bill in its present form.

I am of the opinion that in using the word "so far as practicable" the Government is exceeding its powers. And if it does so it should rest assured that the people are no longer fools and they would surely question these things in the law courts of the country. There is every likelihood that this clause of the Bill may be held *ultra vires* of the Legislature and the people may be laughing at the doings of the Government.

Minister for Development. (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) (*Punjabi*): I would like to inform my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh that the words "so far as practicable" have been used on purpose lest the purpose of the Bill should be defeated. My hon. Friend should rest assured that the Government has no intention of injuring the interests of anybody.

Deputy Speaker: Question is—

That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 5.

Sardar Ajit Singh (Parliamentary Secretary) (*Punjabi*): I beg to move.

That at the end of the Proviso in line 2 for the figure and word "8 years" the fol owing be substituted :
"7 years or more than 20 years".

Madam, for the purposes of lease my amendment aims at replacing the period of two years by a period of seven years. The Government has felt that the period of two years' lease is too small and it has, therefore, agreed to fix the minimum period at seven years so that the lessees are enabled to invest in the lands without any fear of incurring any losses. It is for similar reasons that the maximum limit has been fixed at 20 years. I have every hope that my amendment will meet the point of view of my hon. Friends like Sardar Bachan Singh and that it would be acceptable to everybody without any opposition.

(At this stage Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair and it was occupied by Mehta Ranbir Singh, a member of the Panel of Chairmen)

Shri Prabodh Chandra: On a point of order, Sir. May I know whether your instructions for prolonging the discussion still stand ?

Chairman: Clause under consideration amendment moved—

That at the end of the proposed proviso, in line 2, for the figure and word "8 years" the following be substituted :—
"7 years or more than 20 years".

Sardar Bachān Singh may also move his amendment and both the amendments will be discussed together.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural): I move—

That in the proposed proviso, in line 2, for the figure and word "8 years" the figure and word "10 years" be substituted.

Mr. Chairman, one feels like laughing at the capability and understanding of the representatives of this Government. They have asked for the substitution of " 7 years or more than 2o years". They do not appear to understand as to what is meant by "more than 20 years". I think that they meant "at the most 20 years".

Sardar Ajit Singh : My amendment means what the hon. Member means.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Sir. My hon. Friend Sardar Dalip Singh Kang who is sitting behind me has threatened me that if I raise any points of order I would be thrown out of the Chamber. I ask for your protection.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : Sir, the hon. Member is telling a lie.

Mr. Chairman : The hon. Member should withdraw the words "telling a lie". These words are unparliamentary.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I wanted to say that the Government has not shown any liberality of mind by putting 7 years in stead of 8 years. It appears to be a progress in the opposite direction. This provision will enable the officers to grant leases for a maximum period of twenty years to their favourites and for a period of only 7 years to those who do not find favour with them. This thing will give the Government a very bad name. The Government should be aware that the people are already accusing it of favouritism, nepotism and all forms of corruption.

Now through this amendment the Government wishes to reduce this period from eight to seven years.

Minister For Public Works : On a point of information. Would it not be better, if the hon. Member uses all the words like nepotism, favouritism etc., which he knows ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : It appears that because the people accuse the Government of these things every day, they are tired of hearing these. If the Government really wishes to avoid hearing such things, it should give up resorting to these methods. I have not been able to understand the reason for which the period of seven years is being substituted for eight years. If a person takes land on lease, he will like to do cultivation with the help of tractors and will bore tubewells. On account of the money which he has to spend, he will like the period of lease to be as long as possible.

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According to my knowledge, the period of nine years is more than eight years but these gentlemen appear to think that seven years is more than eight years. In my amendment, I have suggested that this period should be increased to ten years. If this is increased, people will like to invest money in land because in that case there will be likelihood of their earning profits in that long period. If it is left to the Government officers to determine the period of lease in each case, a person who can grease their palms will get longer leases while others will get these for shorter periods. This will lead to another kind of corruption. I want to avoid any further scope for corruption in the State. The Government should fix the minimum period at ten or twelve years and should not give arbitrary powers to its officers. If that is not done, these officers will have wide discretion and those who are favourites of the Government will get land for long periods while the period of lease in the case of others will be much shorter. This will not lead to any good of the State. The difference of thirteen years between the minimum and maximum period should be removed. For these reasons I request the Government to accept my amendment.

Mr. Chairman : Amendment moved :

That in the proposed Proviso, in line 2, for the figure and word "8 years" the figures and word "10 years" be substituted.

The House will now consider both the amendments together.

Minister For Development (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) (*Punjabi*): Mr. Chairman, I agree to accept the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Sardar Ajit Singh. If hon. Sardar Bachan Singh knew that in Sardar Ajit Singh's amendment the maximum period had been provided to be twenty years, he would have perhaps not considered it necessary to move his amendment.

Then Sir, he said, that the Government officers would get an opportunity of favouring their friends. I wish to make it clear that the Government officers have to discharge their duties honestly and if a complaint is received against any officer, the Government shall not hesitate in taking action against him.

In connection with his objection regarding the reduction of the minimum period of lease from eight years to seven years, I beg to point out for his information that under the Colonisation Act, land cannot be given for more than five years. In view of the fact that some persons might like to get land for a longer period, in order that they might bore tubewells, the maximum period of twenty years has been proposed in the amendment. For

these reasons I accept the amendment moved by Sardar Ajit Singh but oppose the other amendment moved by Sardar Bachan singh.

Mr. Chairman : Question is –

That at the end of the proposed Proviso, in line 2, for the figure and word "8 years" the following be substituted :—

"Seven years or more than 20 years".

The motion was carried.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That in the proposed proviso, in line 2, for the figure and word "8 years" the figure and word "10 years" be substituted.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That clause 5 as amended stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 6 TO 9

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That clauses 6 to 9 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That title be the title of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

Minister For Development : Sir, I move—

That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be passed,

Chairman : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be passed.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) : I wish to make a few suggestions with regard to this Bill. So far as the

[S. Bachan Singh]
question of Grow More Food Campaign is concerned, there cannot be two opinions about it. Everybody desires that maximum food should be produced in the State. As I said at the earlier stage of this Bill also, its provisions should be used in such a manner so as to result in the maximum good of poor farmers.

Minister for Development : The hon. Member has already said these things.

Sardar Bachan Singh : In this connection I might point out that about twenty-five lakh acres of land are lying waste in this State. About forty-seven lakh acres were reclaimed through the Rehabilitation Department, out of which about thirtynine lakh acres belonged to the Punjab and about seven lakh acres were in PEPSU.

The Government used to send reports of progress regarding the reclamation of those 39 lakh acres of land after every 15 days to the Members of the Assembly and to other departments. If the Government is really serious to implement this Bill, it shall have to set up a machinery which should issue fortnightly or monthly reports of progress regarding the implementation of this Bill. If this is done, the people will know as to how much progress is being made by the Government in this matter. This is a very important matter and I hope the Government will pay attention to it.

Minister for Development (The hon. Sardar Narotam Singh) (*Punjabi*) : The meetings of the Grow More Food Committees are held every month. The progress reports are also prepared every month. The hon. Members will also be kept informed of the progress.

Mr. Chairman : Question is—

That the East Punjab Utilization of Lands (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

ORDER REGARDING INCREASE IN THE RATES OF ENTERTAINMENTS DUTY LEVIED UNDER THE PUNJAB ENTERTAINMENTS DUTY ACT, 1936

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : Sir, I move :

That the order proposed to be issued in regard to the increase in the existing rates of entertainment, duty levied under the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1936, which was laid upon the Table of the House on the 7th March, 1951, be taken into consideration.

While introducing this order, Sir, I want to make a few observations. There has not been any increase in duty with regard to first two classes namely those of 4 annas and 8 annas. The duty has been increased in respect of classes higher than that of 8 annas. For your information, I may give the rates of duty on the class higher than 8 annas and less than a rupee in other States. In Madhya Pradesh the duty is 8 annas. In U.P. and Bombay the duty is 5 annas. In Madras, Delhi and Bihar it is 4 annas. We have proposed only 4 annas for payment exceeding 8 annas and less than a rupee. This is less than that in other States, although we have increased it as compared to what it was before. In this way, the Government will also have more revenues The incidence of this tax will fall on those persons who can afford to pay for cinema shows.

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved—

That the order proposed to be issued in regard to the increase in the existing rates of entertainments duty levied under the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1936, which was laid upon the Table of the House on the 7th March, 1951, be taken into consideration.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) (*Hindi*) **:** Mr. Chairman, the Government is very anxious to raise the entertainment duty on cinema shows. But it should keep in view the fact that in towns of our country, the labour class has no means of entertainment such as parks, clubs and playgrounds. The only source of entertainment for them is cinema. If the Government were to enhance the duty in the case of payments exceeding Rs. 2, I would be glad. No duty can be too much for the people whose income is very large and who want to spend on luxuries. In fact, more taxes should be levied on the rich people. The Government should see that it does not increase the burden of taxation on the poor people. The people who pay 8 annas to Rs. 2 on cinema tickets, are generally labourers and students.

Sardar Ajit Singh : Labourers like you.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Sir, I want to have some information from you. I want to know whether the Deputy Speaker would come back or you would continue to be the Chairman.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Sir, you should tell such hon. Members that they should rise only on a point of order and not otherwise. It is generally the labourers who go to see cinema shows in classes between 8 annas and one rupee. Between one rupee and two rupees, there are generally

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students. All the world over, Governments give maximum concessions to the students. Only the other day, Shri Gopala Swami Ayyangar, during the discussion on railway budget, agreed not to enhance the fares of the seasonal tickets for the students. If the means of recreation of the labourers and students are taxed, they will be deprived of whatever education they receive from the cinema shows.

Sardar Swaran Singh : You have never been to cinemas. How can you say that the pictures are instructive for the students.

Sardar Bachan Singh : When I was a student, I used to see pictures quite frequently. The Government should provide maximum facilities to the students. It should realise that 90 per cent of the persons who go in the classes between 8 annas and 2 rupees in cinemas, are students.

My submission is that the labourers and the students will be hit hard by this. If the tax were to be imposed on those only who paid more than Rs. 2/- I would be the first person to support it. But if a tax is imposed on the poor sections of the population, I think all sensible persons should resist it. But unfortunately the conditions in our State are such that those who have no capacity are compelled to pay the taxes, while those who are rich are provided facilities to go to health resorts, sea shores and foreign countries on pleasure trips. People like my hon. Friend Sardar Swaran Singh are thinking of going to America, England and such other countries while poor people are denied the only enjoyment which they can have in the cinemas by means of taxing them heavily.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : Such persons can go to the Ganges.

Sardar Bachan Singh : My hon. Friend Dr. Sant Ram Seth says that the labourers and students should go to the Ganges. Does it mean that while the rich persons should go and enjoy in the health resorts, the poor students and labourers should die ? If that is the meaning and intention of Dr. Sant Ram Seth I am really sorry.

Dr. Sant Ram Seth : That is not what I meant.

Sardar Bachan Singh : My submission is that in progressive countries the Government always looks to the interests of poor persons and whenever any taxes are imposed by it the paying capacity of such people is always considered and, as a matter of fact, the burden of taxes is always made to fall upon the rich.

(*At this stage Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair*).

Madam, I was submitting that in other countries Government itself makes arrangements of cinema shows for providing recreation to the poor people. Not only this. Films of educative value are shown to the students at the cost of the Government. But I am constrained to remark that by imposing increased taxes, Government is going to place restrictions on whatever little arrangement exsits in this State under private enterprise. It is no exaggeration to say that by doing so Government is depriving the right or chance of the poor people to have a little entertainment at cheap rates.

Deputy Speaker : No repetition please.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Very well, Madam. What I want to urge upon the Government is that if it is determined to enhance entertainment duty on all payments for admission to any entertainment, it should increase the incidence of taxation on higher classes of cinema tickets and exempt the lower classes from the imposition of any extra tax. In this way the poor people will escape the burden of further taxation, and at the same time the whole amount of estimated tax by the Government will also be realised. I hope Government will be amenable to reason. But if it must tax the poor people and the students, then it should devise means to enhance their income. In this connection I may point out that the labourers in Ludhiana, Jagadhri and Jullundur are in a miserable plight. They cannot make their both ends meet with the meagre income they are earning. So they cannot afford to spend much on the recreation which is provided to them by the cinema houses. It is nothing short of cruelty to deprive them of this little amount of recreation. I am of the opinion that Government should realise enhanced taxes from those who possess the capacity to pay more but not the poor labourers who generally visit cinemas in lower classes. I would, therefore, request the Government to make 'capacity to pay' the guiding principle in the imposition of enhanced duty on entertainments. I need not repeat that the capacity of the labourers to pay increased entertainment duty is very limited. These people cannot afford to provide themselves with adequate food and clothing, how can they afford to pay enhanced entertainment duty. They have formed a habit of seeing cinema shows and I think Government should not take undue advantage of this. I would, therefore, appeal to the Goverment to exempt the lower class of tickets in the cinemas from the levy of additional entertainment duty.

Sardar Swaran Singh (Jullundur West, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I am simply surprised to see that no less a person than Sardar Bachan Singh, has opposed such a useful measure which envisages

[S. Swaran Singh]

enhancement of entertainment duty on cinema tickets. My hon. Friend has particularly pleaded the cause of the students, who, as he thinks, will not be able to visit cinemas frequently. I am of the opinion that if by the imposition of this enhanced entertainment duty, we can succeed in stopping 3 or 4 per cent of the students from going to the pictures, it would be considered as a great achievement of the Government. (*Hear, hear*). Then it has been stated that the increase in the rates of entertainment duty is too much and will be beyond the capacity of the people to pay it. I may tell the hon. Member that the cinema fans will adjust themselves and will purchase tickets of the denomination which they can easily afford. If the tickets of higher classes are beyond their purchasing capacity, they will naturally buy lower class tickets. Since the House has been in session continuously for the last 9½ hours, he has perhaps tried to provide us with an entertainment free of any tax by advancing such arguments which carry no conviction and do not hold water. He has either endeavoured to play to the galleries or oppose the measure simply for the sake of opposition. I hope the House will not attach any importance to his arguments.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I would not detain the House very long as I have to make only one or two observations in connection with the proposed increase in the entertainment duty. I want to suggest to the Government that whereas it has proposed to enhance the tax on cinema tickets, it should also subject the films to a very heavy duty. It goes without saying that the owners of cinemas spend lakhs of rupees in importing films. Besides, when they make enormous amounts of money by showing them to the public, why should they not be made to pay tax on them ? I am strongly of the opinion that the films should be heavily taxed, particularly the obscene pictures, the exhibition of which has become the order of the day. I submit that the obscene pictures have a very demoralising effect on the character of the public. Government should impose such heavy taxes on these films that they may prove deterrent to the owners of the cinemas from importing or exhibiting the same to the people. I feel that by subjecting the films to a heavy tax, Government will not only obtain a large revenue, but will also save the public, particularly the young students, from being demoralised by seeing such films.

Deputy Speaker : Question is —

That the order proposed to be issued in regard to the increase in the existing rates of entertainments duty levied under the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1936, which was laid upon the Table of the House on the 7th March, 1951, be taken into consideration.

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister: I move:

That the order be passed.

The motion was carried.

PUNJAB FORWARD CONTRACTS TAX BILL

Chief Minister: (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava): I beg to introduce the Punjab Forward Contracts Tax Bill.

Chief Minister: I beg to move—

That the Punjab Forward Contracts Tax Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Madam, this Bill contains general clauses governing the imposition of the proposed tax, but so far as rates of tax are concerned, they will come under the rules to be framed under the rule making power vested in the Government under this measure. The hon. members will perhaps remember that during my Budget speech, I had announced that it was the intention of the Govenment to levy a tax on forward contracts. In this connection a deputation of the Chambers of dealers in forward contracts came to see me and after some discussion, I was assured that they would be prepared to pay the proposed tax provided the incidence of taxation was formulated by the Government in consultation with them. It was also decided that the Deputy Secretary, Revenue, and the Excise Commissioner would formulate proposals regarding the rates of this tax and then finalise them after fully consulting and satisfying the dealers' representatives. I hope when the necessary rules are framed, they will not cause any hardship to anybody. If the dealers feel at any stage that the rules are stringent, they will, in consultation with them, be toned down and improved to their satisfaction. With these words, I commend this Bill to the House for its immediate consideration.

Deputy Speaker: Motion moved—

That the Punjab Forward Contracts Tax Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) Madam, through this Bill it is the intention of the Government to levy taxes on the business in forward contracts. It is clear from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that the Government has deemed it necessary to tap new sources of revenue in order to bridge the gulf between income and expenditure. But I am of the opinion that it would have been better if it had tapped some other sources except the one which is under consideration now. At the same time I am not oblivious of the fact that the Government raises its revenue from the excise duty. I have made it clear more than once in unequivocal terms on the floor of this House that a Government which derives its income from taxes on liquors and opium can in no way make any headway. It goes without saying that a Government cannot make any improvement whatsoever through ill-begotten means.

[Mehta Ranbir Singh]

Now about the Bill, which is before the House. There are two ways of conducting business in forward contracts. One is through speculation and the other through hedge-selling. There is no speculative tendency in the latter or in other words when there is no hedge-selling in business then it is to be speculative.

Further, it has been stated by the Government more often than once that taxes have been levied on the liquors only with a view to enforcing prohibition in the State. On the other hand it has been maintained by it that it raises its revenue by the imposition of excise duty on liquors in the State. Madam, you are perhaps aware of the fact that all-out efforts have been made in other States to stop races. While stopping the races they did not pay any attention to the income that they derived from them. So far as our Government is concerned, it is moving in a vicious circle as it is deriving its income from excise duties on liquor and opium. I must say that the excise policy of the Government has already resulted in the deterioration of the conditions in every nook and corner of the State. It seems that like a gambler the Government is interested in making money and it does not care what means it employs to raise its income. I would like to know from the Government whether this is the way to establish *Ram Rajya* of Bapu's dreams. However I would like to make this point clear that in a State where the Government derives its income by taxing the sale of liquors and the business in forward contracts, it is beyond one's imagination to set up *Ram Rajya* in that State.

Further, I would like to submit that if the Government wants that the people should live in peace and prosperity then it should not hesitate to work according to the set principles and on constructive lines. It is an open secret that the gulf between the income and expenditure can be bridged over if some new sources of revenue are tapped. The new sources include agriculture, and industries etc. I am of the opinion that a Government which earns its income by levying taxes on the business in forward contracts, can in no way show any signs of prosperity. It is, therefore, high time that Government devised some other ways and means, unlike the present one, which is being proposed through the Bill, now before the House, to tap new sources of revenue. If it fails to do so, I am afraid, conditions in our State would go on deteriorating day by day. To check that Government should work on lines preached by Mahatma Gandhi. Here I am reminded of a maxim in Hindi which runs as under:—

जैसा अन्न वैसा मन

ਜੈਸਾ ਅੱਨ ਵੈਸਾ ਮਨ।

Shri Prabodh Chandra : No, it is like this

जैसा धन वैसा मन

ਜੈਸਾ ਧੱਨ ਵੈਸਾ ਮੱਨ ।

Mehta Ranbir Singh:—It is a very good principle. I think both the Government and the people will do well if they also follow this principle in the true sense.

Shri Behari Lal Chanana (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing South-East Multan Division, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I have studied the Bill closely and I have found that it does not serve the purpose for which it is intended to be placed on the Statute Book. I would like to read out the definition of the term "Forward Contract" as provided in the Bill, now before the House. It is laid therein :

> "forward contract" means an agreement, oral or written, for sale of goods on a future date but on the basis of which actual delivery of goods is not made or taken but only the difference between the price of the goods agreed upon and that prevailing on the date mentioned in the agreement or any other date is paid or received by the parties ;

It is the intention of the Government to levy a tax each year on the business in forward contracts of a dealer as would be notified by it.

Again, we also find from the explanation in Clause 2 that if a person residing outside the State carries on business of forward contracts in the State through an agent, then such agent shall in respect of such business be deemed to be a dealer for the purpose of this Act. This sort of business in forward contracts is called in Punjabi as 'Jooa' (gambling) and in legal phraseology it is called the 'wagering contract'. I would like to bring this point home to the Government that after the enforcement of the provisions of the proposed Bill the purpose for which the tax is going to be levied would not be served at all. This tax cannot be realized from those persons upon whom it is the intention of the Government to impose it.

Secondly, as has been mentioned in the Bill, forward contract means an agreement for sale of goods on a future date but on the basis of which actual delivery of goods is not made or taken. But the onus to prove whether there was delivery or not is on the Government. I would draw the attention of the House to the bad drafting of the Bill and I think that the very object, for which this Bill has been brought forward, will not be served. Section 16 of the Bill lays down that-

> within 30 days from the receipt of a notice issued under subsection (3) of Section 8, any dealer may, in the prescribed manner, appeal against such assessment to such authority as may be prescribed.

[Shri Behari Lal Chanana]

I would submit that there is always a guarantee in the taxation law for a right of appeal to the competent authority. I had thought that there would be a provision in the Bill that appeal against such assessment would lie before the Commissioner or any other judicial authority in which people have full confidence. But what we find is that the Government which is to impose this tax will also prescribe the authority to whom appeal is to be made. I am sorry to say that there is no such provision in the Bill that the assessees will have a right of appeal before a higher authority. Further in Section 20 of the Bill provides :

> No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Government or any officer or servant of the Government for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or the rules framed thereunder.

Generally speaking, in indemnity clauses provision is made to indemnify acts of individual officers only but not those of the Government as a whole. There should have been no bar to instituting a suit or legal proceedings against the Government servants who may be guilty of serious breach of rules. It appears that this clause has been borrowed from a similar Act in force in Uttar Pradesh. There is a serious omission in the Bill in as much as no provision exists by virtue of which an assessee can appeal to the High Court or any other judicial authority. When the Government is exercising such wide powers in the assessment of this tax there should have been a provision in this behalf. So far as the drafting of the Bill is concerned no attention has been paid to protect the rights of the people. As my hon. Friend Mehta Ranbir Singh has already remarked Government's policy with regard to taxation is ill-conceived. I may make a passing remark that just as according to the Congress Manifesto the Government is committed to a policy of enforcing prohibition in the State but it is reluctant to enforce this policy as by doing so there will be substantial loss to the Government, similarly by levying such a tax the Government has taken shelter behind the plea that it wants to balance the Budget. Although the Government may for the present feel impelled by such considerations but when it actually realises the defects in this taxation it will not be able to remove them.

Sardar Swaran Singh : On a point of order, Madam. The motion adopted pertained to work for 3rd April and now as it is past 12 o'clock, the business of the House cannot continue. It is now 4th April.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I may draw the attention of the Chair to the fact that the hon. Chief Minister had moved a motion for non-stop sitting of the Assembly till the business on the agenda was completed. There is no question of 3rd April or 4th April but we will have to proceed with the work till it is completed.

Deputy Speaker : The House is required to finish the agenda and we cannot rise till we have completed even if we may have to sit till 5th April.

Sardar Bachan Singh : On a point of order, Madam. Since agenda is issued for each day, can the motion for non-stop sitting made for today be applicable to the next day also ? I want your ruling as to whether the business put on the agenda for the 3rd can be continued to be transacted on the 4th.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : While making the motion in question, the hon. Chief Minister had uttered the words 'this day's sitting.' Now it is clear that 'this day's sitting' cannot be continued on the next day or the day after tomorrow since a separate and distinct sitting is held each day.

Shri Virendra : May I know what is the agenda for the 4th April ?

Chief Minister : My motion was that proceedings on certain items of business be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions ... .

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. Have I your permission ?

Deputy Speaker : Yes.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it for the Chair or the Leader of the House to interpret the Rules of Procedure of this House ? We cannot let any hon. Member usurp the right of the Chair.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Chief Minister has risen to repeat the wording of his motion at my request so as to set at rest the doubts of the hon. Members.

Chief Minister : I was saying, Madam, that I had made a motion to the effect that proceedings on certain items of business be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of the rule 'sittings of the Assembly'. Ordinarily, the Assembly would have sat today from 2 p.m. to 6-30 p.m. but since the motion was approved and adopted by the House, I see no force in the argument that it should adjourn without disposing of all the items in respect of which I had moved the said motion because it is past twelve. I, therefore, submit that all these points of order are irrelevant. We have to dispose of all the business whether we have to sit for twenty-four hours or forty-eight hours longer. (*Cheers from the Treasury Benches*)

Deputy Speaker : I accept the interpretation of the motion given by the hon. Chief Minister. The sitting of the 3rd will continue until the business exempted from the rule 'sittings of the Assembly' is disposed of. At the same time I would request the hon. Members to resist the temptation of sleeping and help patiently in the transaction of the business.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: On a point of order, Madam. An official of the Assembly office has handed me an unsigned chit on which it is written that I am deliberately and wilfully obstructing the business of the Assembly. I haven't done anything of the kind. I wish to know whether some responsible officer of the Assembly has sent me this chit and if it is so, I would like to know his name.

Deputy Speaker: But is it not a fact that whatever is written on the chit is true? I would request the hon. Member to carefully study the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

Shri Prabodh Chandra: –I wish to point out that this decision is not based on facts. I have not at all deliberately or wilfully obstructed the business of the House.

Deputy Speaker : I ask the hon. Member to decide for himself whether he is guilty of this charge or not.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I am certainly not guilty.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural). (*Hindi*): Madam, I feel that this Bill which is being considered aims at vilifying the well-to-do people of the State. This Bill provides that the Government may levy on the business of forward contracts any amount of tax by means of a notification every year. The Government is to be enabled to levy any amount of tax that it likes. What it will do is this that in the first place it will fix a high rate of tax. The well-to-do people will come with requests that the rate be lowered i.e. bargaining will be done and the Government will oblige them by meeting them half-way. This is the attitude of this Government. It bargains. What happened in the Steel Scandal Cases. It is a matter of common knowledge that no decision has been taken so far in 41 cases and the Government is bargaining with the accused who are well-to-do persons. Similar things happened in the matter of suspending Jagirs. The idea was that some bargain would be struck with the holders of Jagirs.

Sardar Ajit Singh : On a point of order, Madam. The hon Member is wholly irrelevant and his speech can no longer be tolerated. He is wasting the valuable time of the House.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should know that it is my duty to conduct the business of the House and not his.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of order, Madam. Most respectfully I beg to point out that the Bill concerns the tax on forward contracts and has nothing to do with Steel Scandal Cases and the suspending of the Jagirs. As a matter of fact, the hon. Member is repeatedly bringing in insinuations. He is wasting the time of the House and he should not be allowed to make such an irrelevant speech.

Deputy Speaker : I would request all hon. Members not to waste the time of the House. I would particularly ask hon. Sardar Bachan Singh that he should not indulge in personal attacks. He should also refrain from speaking about the Steel Scandal Cases as there is no occasion for it.

Minister for Public Works : On a point of order. Somehow a gag may kindly be put on the mouth of my hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I am sorry that the hon. Chief Minister has placed the hon. Ministers, hon. Members and others in such a position that they do not know what to do.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should speak to the Motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I was submitting that there is a clause in this Bill which lays down that "there shall be levied each year on the business in forward contracts of a dealer a tax at such rates as the Government may by notification direct". This means that the Government may levy tax at any rate it likes in any year. If the rate of tax is one pice this year, it may be fixed at the rate of two pice next year. This state of affairs is calculated to keep the people in suspense and in an uncertain condition. This was what I meant when I said that the owners of Jagirs were kept in a state of *suspension*. Their Jagirs were suspended and a sort of bargaining was going on with them.

Minister for Public Works :—May I know in which year was the hon. Member suspended ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : I was never suspended.

Shrimati Sita Devi : On a point of order. May I know whether the hon. Ministers unlike other hon. Members of the House are allowed to raise points of order without seeking the permission of the Chair ?

Minister for Public Works : I must admit that the Deputy Speaker and the hon Lady Member herself are very kind to me.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I was submitting that it was the habit of our Government to keep people in suspense. They want the Assembly to give them power to fix the rate of this tax and to increase or lower it at will. In the absence of any information about the rate of tax, the hon. Members are not in a position to form correct opinion about it. If the Government is given the power of increasing or reducing the rate of tax, there is no means of preventing it from misusing its powers. It appears that they have not yet decided about the rate of tax to be levied on forward contracts.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : On a point of information, Madam. As my hon. Friend appears to be under some wrong impression, I want to draw his attention to Clause 22 of the Bill. Under that clause the Government has the power of framing rules. It is laid down in that clause that -

> in particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may prescribe the procedure for the payment of fees in respect thereof, and other matters incidental to the registration of dealers............

Sardar Bachan Singh : I was submitting that the Government has not told us anything about the rate of tax which it proposes to levy on forward contracts. One of the advocates of the Government rose in his seat and referred to a clause of the Bill.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should kindly speak to the motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I beg to submit, Madam, that when I was pointing out that the Government had thrown no light on the rate of tax proposed to be levied, one of its advocates stood up and said that the Government had the power of framing rules. My complaint was that the Government had not told us about the rate of tax. In one of the clauses of this Bill, it is laid down that—

> No dealer shall carry on business in forward centracts unless he has been registered and possesses a registration certificate.

It means that a person shall not be able to deal in forward contracts, unless he possesses dealer's licence. In a subsequent clause, it is laid down that —

> every dealer whether registered or not, upon whom a notice to furnish returns has been served under subsection (2) of section 7, shall keep a full and correct account of all forward contracts in respect of each class of goods made by or through him ....

I don't understand how the Government proposes to legislate on this subject. At one place it lays down that nobody can deal in this business unless he is registered, while in another clause it is provided that whether a dealer is registered or not, the Government can require him to furnish accounts. If a person is unregistered, he cannot deal in the business of forward contracts. Why should he be asked to furnish accounts ?

Sardar Swaran Singh : What should be done if an unregistered firm deals in that business ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : The Government can prosecute it but it can not be asked to furnish accounts.

Sardar Swaran Singh : Take it from me that it cannot be done.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I was submitting that this Bill has been drafted in such a manner that, as pointed out by my hon. Friend Shri Behari Lal Chanana, it is full of defects from one end to the other. What happened was this. The hon. Chief Minister had announced that it was proposed to levy tax on forward contracts. As the Assembly has to be adjourned *sine die* at the close of this sitting, a ridiculous Bill full of defects has hurriedly been brought before this House. If it is not passed, the Government will not be able to collect the tax proposed in it. My hon. Sister Shrimati Sita Devi pointed out that one of the meetings of a Committee, of which she was a member, continued for such a long time that the members began to feel hungry and had to act under a sort of pressure because they were anxious to go home. The same is the case with the Members of this House tonight. They are feeling sleepy and are in a hurry to go away. They are not in a position to devote proper attention to this Bill.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam. The hon. Member can say about himself that he is feeling sleepy or hungry but he has no right to say so about others. To do that would amount to casting reflection on them. We are prepared to sit here till 4 A. M. It is a reflection on the hon. Members to say that they are not taking interest in the proceedings.

Deputy Speaker : This is no reflection.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Under these circumstances when the hon. Members are either sleeping or dozing, the real nature of the Bill under discussion cannot be understood. If it has to be compulsorily passed it is your will. But as a matter of fact, this Bill should have been referred to a select committee so that it could have been properly considered and its defects removed. Actually, a naked sword is hanging over our heads and under pressure the Bills are being rushed through.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Madam, I shall not take much time of the House. This Bill was published in the Gazette of the 27th March and now after two or three days it has been introduced in the House. We came to know of it only after coming here. I wonder why so much haste is being shown in this case. This haste is really indecent. Sales Tax which started from 4 annas per cent has now come to Rs. 3/2/0 per cent. Similar might be the case with regard to this tax. Its rate will also be fixed afterwards. The Government has not been able to do even that. After all the people who will be affected by this tax, should also know what is going to fall on them. They may be gamblers or anything. But their opinion must be taken. If this Bill is passed in such

[Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha]

haste, I am afraid that in the next Session which might be held in June next, another amending bill might have to be brought. I, therefore, submit that this Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion before it is passed.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : (Kangra and Northern Hoshiarpur, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) : Madam, I am surprised to hear speeches which have no head or tail.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : It is a question of sense and nosense.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : If the Government levies a tax on the capitalists for the purpose of getting more revenues, it is criticised.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur : May I know if a speech has also its head and tail ? (*Laughter*)

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : It has become the habit of some hon. Members to criticise every measure howsoever good it may be for the public. This tax is already levied in other States like Bombay and Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Is it a fact or is the hon. Member only talking nonsense ?

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : It is the habit of some Members that they must doubt the *bona fides* of the Government in every case and it is their habit to talk tall in the name of the poor. Under Section 4 of this Bill, the rate of the tax will be determined by a Government notification. It is doubted whether the rate will be too high or too low.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Madam, I do not say that the hon. Member talks nonsense. But when he speaks, he speaks with too much gusto.

Sardar Shiv Saran Singh : Under this Bill all dealers will be registered and their licences can also be cancelled. They are also given the right of appeal against the assessment. Thus this Bill is quite exhaustive. So far as Babu Bachan Singh is concerned, it is his habit to criticise the Government in season and out of season. Whatever the subject and whatever its merits and occasion, he starts speaking in his critical strain. Like the proverbial student, everytime he gets up to speak he begins with, "Let me first prove my binomial theorem". This Bill is quite exhaustive. Even if there are any doubts, the Leader of the House will remove them.

I don't wish to take much time of this august House. I would only say that the hon. Members should not have unnecessary doubts and fears in their minds in this matter. With these words I would appeal to the hon. Members to give their assent to this measure.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, as much has already been said on this Bill, I don't wish to prolong the debate. I agree with Sardar Bachan Singh that this Bill, as well as the Government itself are both defective. Shri Behari Lal Chanana has made reference to clause 16 of the Bill. The first sub-clause of clause 16 lays down that—

> Within 30 days from the receipt of a notice under sub-section (3) of Section 8, any dealer may, in the prescribed manner appeal against such assessment to such authority as may be prescribed.

It has been stated that this gives a right of appeal to the dealers. But in fact no such right exists as its effect has been qualified by the following proviso attached to it.

> Provided that no appeal shall be entertained by such authority unless he is satisfied that the amount of tax assessed on the dealer has been paid.

It means that the dealer can appeal only after he has deposited the amount assessed in the treasury. As a matter of fact, whenever a Government imposes any tax a right of appeal is necessarily given.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang : This is wrong.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : My submission is that in this Bill arbitrary powers of assessment have been given to the officers. The right of appeal given to the dealers has been limited by the proviso that the whole of the tax assessed should first be deposited.

Madam, I wish to give a background of this Bill. Earlier it was decided by the Government that Transport should be maintained.

Deputy Speaker : The hon. Member should please confine himself to the motion under discussion.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I am only explaining the background of this Bill. As a matter of fact, the Ministry is a house divided against itself. When the hon. Ministers are fighting against one another how can we expect them to function in the interests of the poor ? They can easily fall in the hands of the vested interests who do not allow them to resort to equitable taxation. An old story tells us that when a rope did not fit in round the neck of the culprit the king ordered it to be put round the neck of any person and to hang him. Similar is the case with our present Government. It wanted to balance the budget. The vested interests were so powerful that it became impossible to nationalize transport. So the rope of taxation has been put round another neck in order to get money. I would appeal to the Government not to take hasty steps in this direction. It should circulate this Bill for eliciting public opinion on it. It has been stated that we are going to have another session in June. So the hon. Chief Minister

[Shri Prabodh Chandra]

should consider the suggestion of postponing this measure till the time when public opinion on it is received by the Government. From our experience we can easily come to the conclusion that it is not safe to give arbitrary powers to the officers. I would again like to appeal, although I know it will fall flat, that this Bill should be circulated to get public opinion on it or it should be referred to a Select Committee.

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I am sorry to note that to-day most of the objections that have been raised against this Bill on the floor of this House reveal a lack of understanding and knowledge regarding the provisions relating to appeals generally. For the information of such hon. Members I wish to state that in the case of taxes rate is always fixed by the rules and is always notified and placed on the table of the House. In the case of the entertainment tax, for instance, so long as the House does not give assent to the incidence it cannot be increased. If any of the hon. Members resort to making some groundless accusations they have the liberty to do so on the floor of this House. But the fact remains that the rules are made and put into effect only after they are assented to by this House. My submission is that whenever an incidence is increased those who are affected are given an opportunity of explaining their view-point somehow or other. It is said that the incidence has increased six times and so the people will not pay the tax and that the Government will suffer. I am at a loss to understand this type of reasoning. As a matter of fact, if a certain tax is unreasonable it will automatically cease to have any useful effect. The Gavernment is always alive to such dangers and as a matter of fact it considers such effects before-hand. So this is only a hypothetical objection.

Then, Madam, it has been stated by my hon. Friends that as a result of the so-called policy of prohibition, the income of the Government has increased while no decrease has taken place in the consumption of the liquor and that the Government is not keen to bring about any reduction in its consumption. I may tell my hon. Friends that they are entirely mistaken, if they carry this impression about the policy of the Government in this respect. They will perhaps remember that a few days ago I had endeavoured to remove their misunderstanding on this point. I had stated that the policy of the Government in this regard was 'maximum taxation and minimum consumption'. In other words, the main object of levying heavy tax on narcotics like the liquor is to restrict its consumption and not to put a stop to it altogether. It is obvious that prohibitive prices prove a deterrent for those who are addicted to the evil of taking liquor, and only those who can well afford to pay the high price will go in for this.

Besides this, mention has been made of another thing and that is that by introducing this Bill, we are going to encourage gambling in the State. I may tell the House that forward contracts have been recognised by all the governments in other countries as a legitimate, form of business and they have been exempted from the purview of the Gambling Act. If you will just refer to the definition of a forward contract, you will find that it means an agreement, oral or written, for sale of goods on a future date but on the basis of which actual delivery of goods is not made or taken but only the difference between the price of the goods agreed upon and that prevailing on the date mentioned in the agreement or any other date is paid or received by the parties Now there are a number of goods on which forward contracts are made, but they fall within the province of the General Sales Tax Act, and similarly there are certain commodities which are exempted from the sales tax but people do make forward contracts about them. But as I have already stated, actual delivery of goods does not take place in the forward contracts with the result that whereas the dealers derive a considerable profit out of these contracts, Government does not get any share of that unearned money. So this Bill does not intend to tax any commodity but seeks to levy a tax on the agreement which is arrived at between parties. So the hon. Members will see that the question of encouragment of gambling in the State does not arise. In this connection, I may point out that although I am not a businessman myself, yet my hon. Friends who are businessmen know it full well that those businessmen who actually deal in the purchase and supply of goods make forward contracts in certain commodities with a view to making up any loss that they may have to incur in their main business because in the latter case they have to pay or receive the difference between the prices of the goods. Besides this, it may also be mentioned that a progressive State like Bombay, too, has introduced this tax. We know that it is a very advanced State, where primary education has been made compulsory and total prohibition has been introduced. There the Forward Contracts Tax exists and yet gambling is not on the increase in that State. In Uttar Pradesh, this tax has been included in the Sales Tax. The matter does not stop here. This tax has been introduced by the Bihar State as well. So there are three States in this country where Forward Contracts have been taxed. But this does not show that they are retrogressive States and that they are in any way encouraging the evil of gambling.

Then an objection has been taken by my hon. Friends on the ground that the Bill is quite silent on the incidence of taxation. I admit that the rates of tax have not been mentioned in it. But what is stated is that each year a tax shall be levied on the business in forward contracts of a dealer at such rates as the Government may by notification direct. In other

[Chief Minister]

words, the rates of tax are to be fixed under the rules, which will be framed under section 22 of the Bill. This is not an innovation because the rates of Petrol tax and Tobacco Vend Cess have also been fixed under the rules. So the procedure is that when the rules are ready and the tax is to be enforced, a notification to this effect is made by the Government. I remember that I made an indication in my Budget speech of the basis on which we intend to impose this tax. But we want to carry with us the willing cooperation of these persons who will be subjected to this tax. This is the main cause that we have refrained from mentioning the rates of tax in the body of the Bill. If we incorporate this incidence of taxation in the Bill, then the difficulty would be that whenever we would like to make an amendment in the rates of tax according to the conditions prevailing in the State, we shall have to do so by bringing in an amending Bill in a session of the Assembly. But so far as rules are concerned, it is easy to make any changes in them regarding the rates of tax. I hope I have made myself clear on this point.

Then, I would like to make an observation regarding the right of appeal by the dealers against over-assessment or otherwise of the tax. I want to assure the dealers in forward contracts through my hon. Friend Shri Bihari Lal Chanana, that they will enjoy the right of appeal to the fullest extent. Besides, a high and appropriate appellate authority will be appointed to decide their appeals, just as it has been provided in the Bill. The Government will appoint a Commissioner for carrying out the purposes of this Bill. But he can by order in writing delegate any of his powers under this Act to any person appointed to assist him, and all such persons shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code. Now in this connection it would be realised that if we want an officer appointed under the provisions of this Bill to work honestly and boldly without any fear from outside influence, then it is necessary that he should be indemnified by the Government. And for this purpose a provision has been made in this Bill.

Then, Madam, Government has been accused of being very hasty in bringing forward legislative measures and according to my hon. Friends, the result is that many a lacuna is left in the provisions of the Bill. I may tell them that whenever Government introduces any Bill in the House, it does so after giving careful thought to it. The Bill when framed goes first to the Legal Remembrancer for scrutiny and improvement. Then it comes before the Cabinet for discussion and approval. When it is finalised, it is brought before the House. Government does not act like the hon. Members, who, while introducing any private bill, do so without having got it scrutinised by any legal authority. My hon. Friends have cited a flaw in

the Bill to the effect that on the one hand it has been provided that 'no dealer shall carry on business in forward contracts unless he has been registered and possesses a registration certificate' and on the other a provision under section 10 of the Bill has been made that 'every dealer, whether registered or not, upon whom a notice to furnish returns has been served under subsection (2) of section 7, shall keep a full and correct account of all forward contracts in respect of each class of goods made by or through him'. The main objection has been taken to the words 'registered or not'. I may point out that firstly there is no conflict between the provisions and secondly the necessity of retaining the aforesaid words has arisen due to this fact. After the passage of the Bill, while the rules will be under preparation, the dealers in forward contracts will be directed to maintain a correct account of all their business since the receipt of the direction. The dealers cannot be informed of the rates of tax at that very moment, because they are to be fixed under the rules to be prepared under the provisions of the Bill. When they are ready, the rates of tax will be notified. It may take three months for the notification to be made regarding the rates of tax, but since the Government does not want to lose the amount of tax that will accrue to it during this period, it has been provided that every dealer whether registered or not should maintain an accurate and true account of his dealings in forward contracts. There is yet another reason for making this provision. Supposing a dealer does not get himself registered during the period of receipt of direction to maintain accounts and the notification of the rates of tax, does it mean that Government should forego the tax for this period and ask him again to get himself registered otherwise he would be debarred from doing any business in forward contracts? So the hon. Members will see that there is nothing wrong in making a provision under section 10 of the Bill.

Then, Madam, many an irrelevant thing has been said, which had absolutely no connection with the motion nnder discussion. For instance it is said that the Cabinet is not working harmoniously and there exists a schism in it.

Shrimati Sita Devi: On a point of order. May I know whether any payment will be made to the staff for the overtime they are putting in due to the sitting of the Assembly to this late hour of 1. a.m.?

Deputy Speaker: This is no point of order, as it has no connection with the rules of procedure. It would have been better if the hon. Lady Member had raised this point of order after the hon. Chief Minister had finished his speech.

Chief Minister: Madam, I was submiting that all sorts of unnecessary things have been said about the hon. Ministers.

Deputy Speaker : It has been said that the Ministers indulge in striking bargains. Will the hon. Chief Minister kindly explain this point to dispel misunderstanding created by this remark ?

Chief Minister : Yes, Madam, I will come to this point. It has been remarked that the Ministers have no other work except to strike bargains with certain persons. It was also alluded that the Ministers entered into a bargain in the steel cases.

My hon. Friend Sardar Bachan Singh who has already worked for a few days as the Minister for Industries and Civil Supplies has not been able to understand how administration is run. Since he has already had some experience as Minister-in-charge of the Civil Supplies and Industries departments, I think he knows it for himself as to what bargains were struck by the Government. Again, it is absurd to say that no action has been taken by the Government against, those persons who indulged in black-marketing in steel because it has entered into a bargain with them. I have nothing to say except this that those of my hon. Friends who have made these remarks have themselves struck bargains and they know it full well how these deals can be struck. But so far as the Government is concerned, I make bold to submit that it has not and cannot resort to such mal-practices. As regards Steel Scandal cases, I do not want to say anything as the matter is *sub-judice*, nor would I like any of my hon. Friends to refer to it. At this stage, I have no intention to throw any light on this matter nor am I prepared to say with what intention cases were started and what effects were produced by them, nor am I going to say what a serious blunder the then Government had committed by starting cases Again, it is absurd to say that taxes are being levied with a view to strike bargains with those from whom taxes are realized. Those of my hon. Friends who themselves indulge in such bargains think that others might as well be resorting to the same mal-practices. The maxim that 'to a jaundiced eye everything looks yellow' aptly applies here in the case of those hon. Members who having faults in themselves try to find fault in others. These hon. Members instead of advancing cogent arguments take pleasure in hurling abuses on the Government. In fact they have nothing to say except advancing scathing cirticisms against the Government. Perhaps they are oblivious of the fact that 'harsh words break no bones'. Their arguments are devoid of any reason. They have been repeating one and the same thing over and over again and they have no cogent reasons to give in support of tbeir contention.

Further I would like to say a few things in reply to certain points mentioned by my hon. Friend Shri Behari Lal Chanana in the course of his speech. I would like to assure my hon. Friend that Government will frame

rules in consultation with those dealers conducting business in forward contracts who are to pay the tax. I may also assure him that it will fix the rates of tax in consultation with them. I would like to add here for the information of the hon. Members that those who conduct business in forward contracts in the course of trading in the State have approached the Government of their own accord and expressed their willingness to pay the tax which is going to be levied through the Bill, now before the House. In fact they are prepared to co-operate with Government in enforcing the provisions of this legislative measure. But it is a matter for deep regret that those hon. Members who claim to espouse their cause on the floor of this House are advancing baseless and uncalled-for arguments against this legislative measure. With these words, Madam, I would request the hon. Members to support the motion, now before the House.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That the Punjab Forward Contracts Tax Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Deputy Speaker : The House will now proceed to consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

Sub-clauses 2 and 3.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That sub clauses 2 and 3 of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSES 2 TO 22

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That clauses 2 to 22 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

Sub clause 1

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That sub-clause 1 of clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That title be the title of the Bill,

The motion was carried.

Chief Minister : Madam, I beg to move :

That the Punjab Forward Contracts Tax Bill be passed.

Deputy Speaker : Motion moved :

That the Punjab Forward Contracts Tax Bill be passed.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) : Madam, I rise to oppose the motion, now before the House. I would like to submit that the Government is introducing speculation even in the matter of legislation. It is the intention of the Government to make money without caring to think for a moment whether there is any justification for it to tap this source of revenue or not. There are certain other considerations, too, for which the Government is anxious to place the proposed Bill on the Statute Book.

Deputy Speaker : Please leave that and speak to the motion.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Madam, you did not stop the hon. Chief Minister from making baseless insinuations against certain hon. Members of this House.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : Madam, I am opposing the Motion, because the proposed measure cannot be called a piece of legislation as it is through and through a measure of speculation. As a matter of fact, I fully subscribe to the view expressed by my hon. Friend Shri Behari Lal Chanana in the course of his speech to the effect that this Bill is replete with glaring defects. Under the circumstances, I am of the opinion that it is not in keeping with the dignity of the Government to introduce such speculation as is detrimental to the interests of both the Government and the people.

Sardar Bachan Singh (Ludhiana Central, Sikh, Rural) : Madam, all the doubts which I had in my mind about the proposed legislative measure have been removed by certain remarks made by the hon. Chief Minister in the course of his speech.

Minister for Public Works : Why did the hon. Member have any doubts in his mind ?

Sardar Bachan Singh : Because of the doings of the hon. Minister and his colleagues.

Madam, what I wish to submit is this that the hon. Chief Minister pointed out that the dealers who conduct business in forward contracts had approached him and that they had expressed their willingness to pay the tax. Under the circumstances, I do not think I am in the wrong when I say that this Government has struck some bargain with the dealers.

There are reasons for every Government to impose taxes on its people. Taxes are imposed upon the people to make up the deficit of the Budget or in other words taxes are levied to bridge the gulf between income and expenditure. Ordinarily, taxes are imposed with a view to meeting the increased expenditure of the Government on schemes of development of the State. But in this case if the hon. Chief Minister had made clear the principles of this taxation then I would have been satisfied. In the year 1941 when the general sales tax was imposed the Government made the whole position clear as to the rate and incidence of the tax. Similarly, when our Government came into power it also made it amply clear that it would charge Rs. 3/2/- per cent instead of -/4/- per cent. Even at the time of raising abiana rates the Government clearly stated that it intended to raise abiana rates by fifty per cent. But the present Bill is quite silent in this respect. I would like to know as to who were those persons who had met the hon. Chief Minister and had agreed to the imposition of this tax.

Chief Minister : They were members of the Chamber of Commerce, Ludhiana.

Sardar Bachan Singh : This business of forward contracts is carried on not only in Ludhiana but in other towns as well. If a few persons from Ludhiana had met the hon. Chief Minister it does not mean that the business of forward contracts is carried on in Ludhiana alone. In big business centres this business is usually carried on. Now the Government wants to levy this tax on such persons who conduct the business of forward contracts in order to meet the deficit in the State. It appears that the hon. Chief Minister must have called some well-to-do dealers in forward contracts and enquired from them how much tax they would be willing to pay to the Government. So I think that the members of the Chamber of Commerce, Ludhiana must have either come of their own accord knowing the intention of the Government or they must have been called by the Government to know how much they would be willing to contribute to the Government. After consultation the Government must have struck a bargain in this behalf.

Chief Minister : Forward contract itself means bargain.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Secondly, the Government intends to levy this tax on the dealers who have not so far got themselves registered. I fail to understand why this Bill is being passed without giving them reasonable opportunity to get themselves registered. But my hon. Friend Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha has remarked that this tax will be levied on the unregistered dealers in forward contracts with retrospective effect. If this

[S. Bachan Singh]

is so, this Bill should have been referred to a select committee. When I make such a suggestion then the hon. Chief Minister says that that stage has now passed but I know that even if this motion had been made by me in the beginning it would not have been accepted by the Government. If the Government gives me an assurance that my requests will be acceded to then in future I will not feel shy of making such motions in the House.

Minister for Public Works : If the hon. Member wants this it would be better that he should rejoin this party.

Sardar Bachan Singh : I regret that I cannot bargain in this way.

Minister for Revenue : How can there by any bargain when you have no goods.

Sardar Bachan Singh : Madam, I was submitting that even the unregistered dealers will also be liable to pay this tax under this Bill. In view of this it would have been better if the Government had referred this Bill to a select committee for making improvements in it. I must congratulate my hon. Friend Shri Behari Lal Chanana for getting assurance from the Government that his suggestions regarding this Bill will be accepted. But at the same time I feel that the Government should give an assurance to the public at large. The Government's assertion that it will accede to any suggestion made by a particular Member is likely to lower the dignity of this House. I would, therefore, submit that in case the Bill is passed the Government should agree to the issuing of a notification with regard to the rate of tax as early as possible so that the people may not remain under suspense. They should clearly know how much tax they will have to pay because it does not behove the Government to keep the public in suspense. The Government should realise its responsibility in this respect. I hope that after the passage of this Bill the Government will issue a notification with regard to the rate of tax so that people may know how much tax they will have to pay to the Government.

Chief Minister : (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I venture to give a bit of information to this House in this connection from an official file. This is a note which I had written to the Excise and Taxation Department on 6th February, 1950.

> I understand that the Governments of Bombay and U. P. earn crores of rupees by way of revenue by imposing Sales Tax on the transactions of gold, silver and foodgrains at the rate of As. 4 per cent. We can also earn some revenue by imposing Sales Tax on such Chambers which exist in big towns like Amritsar, Ludhiana and Rohtak. Will F. C. R. kindly examine this point ?

The Department to which this question was referred took full one year to study and examine it. So nobody should labour under the misunderstanding that it is a piece of hap-hazard legislation and this taxation is being imposed without sufficient consideration. In bringing such proposals before the House the Government has no other object but the augmentation of its revenues in view. It is irrelevant to suspect any ulterior motives in such matters. The Government can never think of imposing a tax without first ascertaining as to whether the people on whom its incidence is to fall have the capacity to pay it or not. It is our first consideration to see that the burden of any new taxation does not fall on the poor section of the population. Another thing that the Government has to keep in view while proposing any taxation is the cost of its realization or collection. It is no use imposing a tax whose realization requires the Government to spend equal to or more than the income expected to accrue from it.

It has been objected as to why the Government does not agree to the reference of this Bill to a select committee since it is proposed to enforce it with retrospective effect. I have not said that it will be enforced with retospective effect nor is it stated anywhere in the Bill itself. The date of its enforcement has not been mentioned but it will take effect only after the decision about the incidence of taxation and the date of registration has been reached and notified in the Gazette.

There is no question of the realization of the proposed tax with retrospective effect. Its realization will begin only after the decision about its incidence has been reached and the registration has been completed. I don't think there is any need of referring it to the Select Committee. There is nothing objectionable in this Bill. With these words, I request the House to pass this Bill.

Deputy Speaker : Question is :

That the Punjab Forward Contracts Tax Bill be passed.

The motion was carried

PROHIBITION OF SMOKING (CINEMA AND THEATRE HALLS) BILL

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I introduce the Punjab Prohibition of Smoking (Cinema and Theatre Halls) Bill.

Chief Minister : I move—

That the Punjab Prohibition of Smoking (Cinema and Theatre Halls) Biil be taken into consideration at once.

Without dilating on the importance of this Bill, I shall just read out the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to it.

[Chief Minister]

"The evil pratice of smoking in the Cinema and Theatre Halls is not only rampant but is also rapidly increasing. Smoking, if indulged in a closed place, like Cinema and Theatre Halls, vitiates the internal atmosphere which is already fouled by congestion at the time of the show and although there is a provision in the Cinematograph Act for exhaust fans so as to expel foul air yet in actual practice these fans very often remain out of order or are intentionally put out of use with a view to effect economy, with the result, that generally speaking the atmosphere of the halls becomes oppressive and positively injurious to the public health, which it is the paramount duty of the Government to safeguard."

Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Prohibition of Smoking (Cinema and Theatre Halls) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*): Madam, I congratulate the Government on having brought this beneficial measure before the House. This is by far the best of all the Bills that have come before us during the current session because it aims at safeguarding the health and elevating the character of the people in general. The importance of this legislation can hardly be exaggerated in the context of the present-day conditions. Smoking in Cinema Halls and Theatres is not only harmful for the smokers themselves but it also vitiates the whole atmosphere inside the halls so as to endanger the health of the entire audience. It is, therefore, essential that indulgence in this habit in closed places like Cinema and Theatre Halls be stopped altogether.

I might go further and suggest that it would be much better if the Government brings forward a measure to check the evil habit of smoking among children of tender age who are in increasing number indulging in it and are ruining their health.

Chief Minister : I might inform the hon. Lady Member that an Act for the prevention of juvenile smoking is already in force.

Shrimati Sita Devi : Then I would request that it should be very strictly enforced because I find that at present it is being honoured more in its breach than observance. As to the Bill under consideration, I doubt if there can be any difference of opinion on the principle involved in it. I am sure even those hon. Members who are themselves in the habit of smoking would extend their unstinted support to it. (*Laughter*)

Without dilating any more on the merits of this Bill, I would urge the strictest possible enforcement of this measure after it has been passed, lest it should meet the fate which some other beneficial measures have met.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : On a point of order, Madam.

Minister for Public Works : This '*munda*' will not desist from making interruptions.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Will you please ask him to withdraw the word 'munda' because I take strong objection to its use?

Minister for Public Works : Alright, Madam. I withdraw it.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : Madam, has not the hon. Minister cast a reflection on me by suggesting that I interrupt very often? Such a measure has been passed in Bombay and the Uttar Pradesh and is being enforced very strictly. We should also emulate the example of these States if we want to improve the health and the character of our people. I am really pleased that this Bill is being passed. But I would suggest that it should be enforced with all possible strictness and without any delay.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha (Jullundur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) **:** Madam, I am pleased to find that the hon. Lady Member has thought fit to congratulate the Government on something at any rate. She has admired the Government for bringing this measure. But I may for her information say that though like all other things of this world smoking has its merits and demerits, she would not leave it if she ever once takes to it. As a matter of fact, I do not find any sense in this measure. A restriction is being unnecessarily placed on the smoking of poor labourers who may at times have recourse to this cheap form of enjoyment. If it was at all necessary to check smoking in the cinema halls the smokers should have been subjected to some further taxation. But it is unfair to stop them from smoking in the halls. If the non-smokers have some objection to sitting with them they should be provided with separate seats. Again it has been argued that smoking is to be banned as the air inside the halls gets polluted. I agree that the air does get polluted but this does not mean that smoking should be stopped. The remedy lies in asking the cinema hall proprietors to arrange for exhaust fans. Further this measure is also likely to give rise to some corruption because the Police constables might exploit the poor smokers and extort some money out of them. In these circumstances I have no word of praise for this Bill.

Sardar Dalip Singh Kang (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lyallpur East, Sikh, Rural) (*Punjabi*) **:** Madam, I congratulate the Government for bringing this measure before this House in deference to the wishes of the people. The non-smoking cinema-going public was being greatly inconvenienced by the smokers. Not only that smoking in the cinema halls was harmful for the non-smoking public, it was more so for the smokers themselves. The smokers seldom realize that by doing this act they actually keep digging their own graves. The Americans have collected

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facts and figures and they show that the smokers do not live very long. They have also proved that the smokers do not make good athletes and warriors. Smokers as a matter of fact, are no match for the non-smokers. Here in this very House the hon Members have seen that the non-smokers have triumphed over the smokers. So we should do our level best to discourage this bad habit of smoking in case we wish to improve the health of our people. But this can only be done if this measure which is now being passed is very strictly enforced and nobody is allowed to indulge in this vice in trains, buses and other public places.

Shrimati Dr. Parkash Kaur (Amritsar, Sikh, Woman) (*Punjabi*): Madam, I have no mind to take much time of the House as it has already grown so late. But I feel that I shall be failing in my duty if I do not congratulate the Government on bringing before the Assembly this very useful measure. As a matter of fact, it should have been brought and passed long before. (*Interruptions.*) I would most humbly request hon. Members not to interrupt me as I never do such things when they are making their speeches. If I co-operate with them, I think I am justified in expecting co-operation from them. As for this Bill, I am to say that this is a very important Bill as it is calculated to improve the health of our people. (Sardar Bachan Singh : The Sikh Members need not make any speeches on this Bill.) I agree with hon. Sardar Bachan Singh that there is no need for me to speak on this Bill as a Sikh. But I am not speaking as a Sikh. I am speaking as a doctor and a medical practitioner. I feel it is incumbent on me to suggest such things which are conducive to health. Smoking in public places positively pollutes the air in those places and is therefore very harmful. Here I wish to place two suggestions in connection with the enforcement of this measure. Along with this I wish to make two suggestions. The Government has done well in laying down that those contravening the provisions of this Bill would be liable to fine upto twenty rupees. As majority of our public is ignorant about the evils of smoking, it is necessary that we should educate them. For this purpose cinema slides should be prepared and these should be widely exhibited before imposing fines. Secondly, as my hon. Brother Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha said, it should be seen that an inspector does not get innocent persons challaned on account of his enmity with them.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Punjabi*): Many things have been said in connection with this Bill but I feel that it is the duty of the Government to educate the public about the injurious effects of things like tobacco instead of passing Acts like this. That is the proper

way of making the people and country progressive. Social improvements cannot be brought about by passing laws. Everybody must have seen the notice boards prohibiting spitting on the Mall Road, Simla, but I have myself seen two hon. Ministers spitting on that road.

Deputy Speaker : We are not discussing the subject of spitting.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I was submitting that if one is convinced about the evils of a certain act, he can be expected to abstain from it. Spitting, making water on the roads and smoking are no doubt bad habits, but unless one is convinced that these cause disease, he will not give these up. However rigorous the provisions of an Act or order might be, such practices cannot be stopped without proper education of the people. A good government takes least resort to laws for checking such things. Instead of merely displaying the pictures of hon. Ministers on the boards, the Government should do wide publicity and tell the people that smoking is an injurious habit. The Ministers should also be told that it is not good to spit on the roads.

Another thing which I wish to point out is this. Under the provisions of this Bill only an inspector appointed for that purpose can arrest a person smoking in a cinema hall. It must have been seen that in the railway comparments there is a notice that one cannot smoke without the consent of his fellow passengers. Similarly, I desire that in the case of this Bill it should have been provided that if somebody brought it to the notice of the cinema manager that a certain person was smoking in the hall, he should have the power to take action against that man.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : I am glad that a good measure like this has been brought before the House, though I wish that it should have been passed long ago. Whenever I want to see a picture after six months or a year, the smoke produced by smoking cigarettes in the hall gave me great offence.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Has the hon. Member ever smoked a cigarette ?

Mehta Ranbir Singh : No, I have never smoked.

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : The hon. Member should try it once.

Mehta Ranbir Singh : I have great aversion for smoking. Sometimes I had to leave the picture house in the middle of the show on account of the smoke in the hall. Whether smoking is a good habit or bad, the smokers have no right to fill the public halls with smoke, because it makes it impossible for others to sit the. They have the right of recreation but not of producing smoke at those places. In this connection, I wish to make

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a suggestion to the Government. In addition to applying this Act to cinemas and theatres, it should be applied to places of public meetings also. Sometimes so much smoke is produced by the smokers at the public meeeings that it becomes impossible for the nonsmokers to remain there. They have to leave those meetings without hearing some very good speeches or poems. The smokers will not die if they have to abstain from smoking for three or four hours. They can smoke afterwards. They should not smoke at least for that time for which they attend some public meeting in a hall.

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Punjab Prohibition of Smoking (Cinema and Theatre Halls) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried.

Deputy Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSES (2) AND (3)

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clauses (2) and (3) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The mation was carried.

CLAUSES 2 TO 7

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

CLAUSE 1

SUB-CLAUSE (1)

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That sub-clause (1) of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried.

TITLE.

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was earrted.

Chief Minister : I move—

That the Punjab Prohibition of Smoking (Cinema and Theatre Halls) Bill be passed.

Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the Punjab Prohibition of Smoking (Cinema and Theatre Halls) Bill be passed.

Shrimati Sita Devi (Ex-Member West Punjab Assembly representing Lahore City, General, Women, Urban) (*Hindi*) : During my speech at the second reading of this Bill, I forgot to mention a very important thing If the Government wishes this Bill to have proper effect, they should give wide publicity to it and display cinema slides in every village, town and mohalla, telling people about the injurious effects of smoking.

Deputy Speaker : Question is –

That the Punjab Prohibition of Smoking (Cinema and Theatre Halls) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried.

EAST PUNJAB MINISTERS' SALARIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Chief Minister (The hon. Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava) : I beg to introduce the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill.

Chief Minister : I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Madam, I want to say a few words regarding the desirability of this amending Bill. Under the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries Act, each Minister is provided with a free furnished house. Here at Simla no Minister had any house of his own. Consequently, the Government provided them with requisitioned houses. Then arose an occasion when a Minister had a house of his own. The Government could not thus requisition any other house for him. The provision for the grant of an allowance in lieu of free furnished house was, therefore, necessitated. This could not be done under the present Act and hence this amending Bill has been brought.

Deputy Speaker : Motion moved—

That the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

Shri Prabodh Chandra (Gurdaspur, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, although this Bill is not controversial, yet I would like to say a few words. If this allowance of Rs. 3,600 per annum is given in lieu of a house, it might be an attraction for the Ministers and they might be tempted to live in modest houses instead of Government houses, in order to claim it. So far, the Government has been providing free furnished houses to the Ministers. But now it is proposed as follows—

or in lieu thereof, an allowance not exceeding three thousand and six hundred rupees a year as the Government may in each case fix.

The Government has fixed Rs. 3,600 as this allowance. It comes to Rs. 300 per mensem. In this Bill, it has not been specified as to what would be the allowance if a Minister lives in his own house. I think the Government should pay him allowance equal to the rent of his house as fixed by the Municipal Committee. (At this stage, the hon. Minister for Public Works interrupted.) Madam, as the saying goes, the tail of a dog cannot be straightened even after twelve years of massage.

Minister for Public Works : I wish you were to massage me only for a year.

Shri Prabodh Chandra : I want to submit that if a Minister does not want to live in a Government house, he should be paid the rental value of his house. It should not be optional for the Government to pay as much as it likes.

Mehta Ranbir Singh (Ludhiana and Ferozepore, General, Rural) (*Hindi*) : Madam, I have stood up to support this Bill. (*Cheers*) On the one hand the Ministers are blamed for having huge furniture in their bungalows and that is a fact, on the other hand the Government is criticised for paying even Rs. 300 per mensem to a Minister in lieu of a free furnished house. This is not good. We should certainly agree to give this power to the Government. If a Minister agrees to live in a small house, he sets a good example and it does not become us to doubt his intentions. I am not prepared to agree that any Minister would get Rs. 300 as allowance and live in a house whose rent is only Rs. 100 as has been alleged by the hon. Member who has preceded me. I, therefore, submit that this Bill should be passed and the hon. Ministers who are living in houses carrying high rents should now shift to other houses carrying less rent.

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration at once.

The motion was carried

Deputy Speaker : The House will now consider the Bill clause by clause.

CLAUSE 2

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

CLAUSE 1

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was carried

TITLE

Deputy Speaker : Question is—

That the Title be the Title of the Bill.

The motion was carried

Chief Minister : I beg to move—

That the East Punjab Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Bill be passed.

The motion was carried

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Deputy Speaker : Before I announce that the House stands adjourned *sine die,* I consider it my duty to express my gratitude to the hon. Members for their ordering me, some days back, to occupy this Chair. I hope the House will not mind the mistakes that I might have committed during the course of the conduct of business on the days on which I occupied this Chair. The success that I might have achieved in the discharge of this responsibility is due to the attitude of the hon. Members themselves. I will be failing in my duty if I do not thank the Secretary, Sardar Abnasha Singh for the guidance which I received from him. I also thank Dr. Kuldip Chand Bedi, Officer on Special Duty, for the assistance and help given by him. I would also like to place on record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance rendered by Shri Charanjit Lal. (*Cheers*)

Shri Bhagat Ram Chodha : Madam, we thank you for conducting the proceedings of the House so ably. (*Hear, hear*).

The Assembly then adjourned sine die